FILIPINO OF THE YEAR 2006

ANTONIO MELOTO

After Edsa I, Gawad Kalinga Filipinos' next gift to world

PHILIPPINE DAILY
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CED NEWS, FEARL IEWS
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INQUIRER PHOTO

MELOTO: The force, neither political nor military, the dreamer behind Gawad Kalinga which presents the world a template for development in this century by harnessing the power of the people to create self-sustaining, God-fearing communities toward building a thriving democracy.

Editor's Note: *Now on its 16th year, the* Inquirer*'s Filipino of the Year honors a living Filipino who has made the most positive impact on the life of the nation the past year. Eligible to vote are Inquirer editors and assistant editors. This year, there were 52 voters. Fourteen voted for Antonio Meloto, the man who started Gawad Kalinga.'*

FILIPINO/ A8

IN THE 1980S, THE PHILIPPINES GAVE the world People Power—a gift that came forth from Edsa that has kept on bringing democracy the world over.

In the 1990s, there began what the world has come to embrace as the next, necessary, follow-up to People Power as political action. If People Power was a means for reclaiming freedom, something would have to address the need to build a thriving, substantive democracy.

What began in 1999 with an effort to build a single house for the members of the Adduro family, who were living in a shanty of rusted GI sheets, cardboard boxes, plastic sheets and old tires, is now known as Gawad Kalinga. In this first decade of the present century, it has grown to represent the Philippines' next gift to humanity.

Gawad Kalinga is becoming a global template for development—one that has expanded to Papua New Guinea, Indonesia

AFTER/ A8

Bush to GMA: Good job

US president hails Arroyo for 'fantastic' leadership vs terror

WHAT'S INSIDE

Bringing back the glory days from 101 Dalmatians to 25,000 Filipino animators.

SUNDAY MAGAZINE / 13

Much Ado about nothing over Dakota Fanning's rape scene; her acting is remarkable, film itself is not.

ENTERTAINMENT / E5

Why two Gen-Xers junked iPod, Friendster and YouTube to launch a magazine with a most unusual subject to bring their point across.

SUNDAY MAGAZINE / 13

Schooled in romance:

Ex- and comebacking Sen. Tito Sotto and wife Helen Gamboa's only son Gian walks down the aisle with his companion of 7 years Joy Woolbright

LIFESTYLE / C5

Unseeded Serena Williams destroys Maria Sharapova for Aussie Open ladies' crown

SPORTS / A26

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

DAVOS, SWITZERLAND (VIA PLDT)—US President George W. Bush has congratulated President Macapagal-Arroyo for her "fantastic leadership" in cracking down on the extremist Abu Sayyaf.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said at a briefing here early Saturday morning that Washington phoned Ms Arroyo in Davos at about five minutes to 4 p.m. Friday, and that the conversation between the two heads of state lasted for about 10 minutes.

Ms Arroyo is attending the five-day annual meeting here of the World Economic Forum (WEF), which will conclude today.

In a statement issued from Washington, US National Security Council spokesperson Gordon Johndroe said Bush phoned Ms Arroyo "to thank her for the strong support in the global war on terror."

Johndroe said Bush "commended President Arroyo for [the Philippines'] recent action against the Abu Sayyaf."

According to Bunye, Ms Arroyo also thanked Bush for his administration's support of the Philippines' antiterror campaign, including civic action and intelligence sharing.

"The conversation was very friendly and cordial," Bunye said, adding that each addressed the other on "a first-name basis."

Per Bunye's account, Bush congratulated Ms Arroyo for her "fantastic leadership in dealing with those who want to do us and our people harm."

Ms Arroyo replied that the success was also due in large part to the cooperation be-

BUSH/ A10

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM
WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM
WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM
APAGAL ARROYO
EL

LEADING ROLE: President Arroyo sits down with fellow Asean leaders for a panel discussion on "Asean's 40 years—a New Future" where she also delivered the opening remarks. MALACANANG PHOTO

Abu kidnap chief killed on Gracia's birthday

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—ABU SAYYAF SEnior leader Jainal Antel Sali, alias Abu Sulaiman, was killed on the birthday of Gracia Burnham, the American missionary kidnapped by the extremist group from a Palawan resort along with 19 others and held captive for 376 days.

"It was like God was saying, 'Gracia, I haven't forgotten,'" Burnham said in a letter to her mission partners in the Philippines after news broke out of Sulaiman's death in a clash with government troops on Jan. 17 in Talipao, Sulu.

Burnham recalled that she was roused from sleep on her birthday by the phone ringing. It was The Associated Press asking for a statement on the death of Sulaiman.

"From then on, the phone rang all day long. Media outlets from all across the country. At one point, Channel 10 called to say they were coming out, so I called mom and she came and cleaned my kitchen while I got on some makeup and got things ready for them," she wrote, adding:

"The guys with the justice department called. One of my friends

ABU KIDNAP/ A17

Pinoy koi breeder raises national pride

By Volt Contreras

IT PUTS YOU IN THE MOMENT, WATCHING them gently glide in the water—white koi with orange markings, black ones with red and white patterns, or singular colors in platinum or metallic yellow.

Serene and surprising, koi are ornamental fish associated with good luck.

It's the stuff of Zen.

But for one Filipino enthusiast, breeding this colorful variety of carp has become a matter of national pride.

Since 2002, business executive Michael Romero has been putting the Philippines in the winner's circle of what is historically acknowledged as a Japanese art—and science—of raising koi (Nihongo for carp).

Koi culture, which can be very pricey if taken to competition levels, is hardly a craze in the Philippines. Yet Romero has won a total of 15 awards in Japanese and international competitions, pulling off major upsets. He can be likened to a foreigner winning the grand prize in a jeepney design contest, or a desert dweller bagging the gold medal in fig-

PINOY/ A10

Palace poachers baiting Loren, Nikki

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.
and Cynthia D. Balana

MALACAÑANG HAS STEPPED UP ITS poaching expedition on the other side of the political waters, hoping to reel in former Senators Loren Legarda and Nikki Coseteng for inclusion in its "Team Unity" slate.

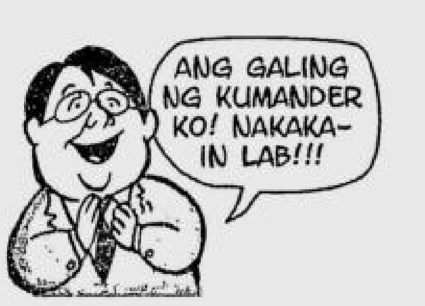
A top Palace official, who is familiar with the back channel negotiations but is not authorized to speak officially about the matter, said some of the administration's "campaign funders" had started talks with representatives of Legarda and Coseteng.

"They are talking, the talks started last week," the official said.

But the Palace, which is using its vaunted political machinery as bait, may be in for a struggle.

Legarda, in an interview with the INQUIRER,

PALACE/ A17


ANG GALING NG KUMANDER KO! NAKAKA-IN LAB!!!

Mike A stands by his woman

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

DAVOS, SWITZERLAND (VIA PLDT)—First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo was the picture of a proud husband as he kept pace with President Macapagal-Arroyo's whirlwind schedule in the World Economic Forum here.

"I am very proud of her," Mike

MIKE A/ A10

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Second FrontPage

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers, while Eastern Visayas and Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY: LAW DE GUZMAN, INQUIRER RESEARCH/01/26/07SOURCE PAGASA

6 killed as RP, MILF forces clash

CAMP SIONGCO, SHARIFF KABUNSUAN—Fighting erupted between government forces and the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) over the past three days in North Cotabato province in Mindanao, reportedly killing three rebels and three militiamen—and threatening an ongoing peace process.

Unconfirmed reports also said five civilians were killed, and up to 5,000 villagers were forced to flee the conflict area in the remote villages of Midsayap town.

Both sides accused each other of breaking the internationally-monitored ceasefire agreement signed in Malaysia in July 2003, even as Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo told a forum at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, on Thursday that he expected a more formal peace agreement with the Islamic rebels by June.

Mohagher Iqbal, chief peace negotiator for the what is now the largest rebel group in southern Philippines, accused the military of bombing MILF positions, using rocket-firing planes and artillery.

On the other hand, Lt. Col. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said the military had indeed shelled MILF positions but only because an MILF band raided rice farms in the villages of Rangaban and Mudsing in Midsayap town then attacked soldiers who came to protect them.

"We only flew persuasive flights using SF-260 planes, but there was no dropping of bombs as the MILF claimed," said Ando, who reported three rebels killed.

Three pro-government militiamen were also killed in the attack and two soldiers were wounded, Ando said. "This is a clear violation of our ceasefire. We are protesting," Ando added.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said that the MILF group in the Midsayap area was actually a peace keeping force that was sent to mediate a land conflict between government militiamen and MILF rebels under one Commander Yuri Sugod. But the peace keeping force had come under attack from the military, prompting them to return fire.

Iqbal said he called the members of the Malaysian-led International Monitoring Team (IMT) to stop the fighting so it would not escalate. It's all about a land conflict. There are migrants in the area claiming a particular area. The migrants were supported by militias," Iqbal said,

Meanwhile, Catholic priest Bert Layson, a peace advocate involved in the rehabilitation of war-torn areas in North Cotabato, told the INQUIRER that a non-government organization told him that at least 5,000 civilians in the conflict area fled their homes for fear of their lives.

"This is not an ordinary encounter. It's alarming," Layson said.

Von Al Haq, chair of the MILF's coordinating committee on cessation of hostilities, said the fleeing villagers have sought refuge in Sambulawan, Nabalawag and Kapinpilan villages. He received the reports that five civilians were killed when they were hit by bombs dropped by a military plane and identified one of those fatalities as a certain Noria of Barangay Rangaban. This could not be independently verified as of presstime.

"The three villages from where the evacuees came from are now ghost areas," he said.

"Right now, the situation in the area has subsided. Although both parties have given way to mediation and the fighting has ceased, the situation is still volatile," Al Haq said.

The peace talks between the government and the MILF hit a snag in September after both parties failed to agree on the issue of ancestral domain.

The MILF, estimated to have 13,000 members, wants at least 1,000 villages included in the proposed Bangsamoro juridical entity but the government said it could only allow the inclusion of about 600 villages. The government also insists that the formation of the future Bangsamoro entity would have to be decided in a plebiscite.

In Davos, Switzerland Thursday, Philippine Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo expressed hope that a more formal peace agreement with the MILF could be signed by June.

"We are confident that it will come to fruition this year," Romulo told a panel on "The Challenge to Moderate Islam in Southeast Asia" at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

The Philippine and US governments hope that an agreement with the group could transform its rural strongholds into hubs of economic growth.

Meanwhile, a US-backed offensive that started Aug. 1 on southern Jolo island has been targeting Abu Sayyaf extremist rebels who have ties to the al-Qaida-linked Southeast Asian terror network Jemaah Islamiyah. *Jeoffrey Maitem, Edwin O. Fernandez and Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao; with AP and Reuters reports*

Dutch lawyers seek new probe of killings

By Norman Bordadora

AN AMSTERDAM-BASED lawyers' organization asked President Macapagal-Arroyo on Friday to form yet another commission to look into the alleged extra-judicial killings of personalities perceived to be members of the leftist movement in the Philippines.

In an open letter to Ms Arroyo, the Dutch Lawyers for Lawyers Foundation said the Melo Commission which wrapped up its probe of the killings in December 2006 lacked the power, independence and credibility to come up with a satisfactory report on the political killings under the Arroyo administration since 2001.

"(Filipino) human rights organizations and other members of civil society have expressed their concerns as to the Melo Commission's independence, powers and credibility," said lawyer Phon Van Den Biesen, L4L president.

In behalf of L4L, Den Biesen asked Ms Arroyo to immediately establish a new independent body, "the members of which are appointed by and are representatives of human rights organizations, religious groups, local government and other sectors of civil society and who are known for their independence and integrity."

He also asked the Philippine government to fully implement a framework within which the pattern of political killings can be stopped in accordance with the UN Principles on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-Legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions and the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power.

"(The Philippine government should also) fully comply with requests of international bodies such as the UN Special Rapporteurs to visit your country and carry out fact-finding missions and to fully support these missions," Den Biesen added.

The lawyers' group said that despite the formation of the Melo Commission and the PNP's Task Force Usig and the Arroyo administration's pronouncements against the killings, such attacks against perceived leftists continue.

The group cited the cases of Judge Nathaniel Pattugalan who was shot dead by motorcycle-riding men on Jan. 19, 2007, human rights lawyer Gil Gojol who was killed in a similar manner on Dec. 12, 2006 and lawyers Froiland Siobal and Leonito Tapel who were ambushed and killed on Nov. 19, 2006 and Dec. 2, 2006 respectively.

Den Biesen said the Melo commission's members were not considered fully independent from the Arroyo administration as two of them—National Bureau of Investigation director Nestor Mantaring and Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zu, both of the Department of Justice—are members of the executive branch.

Other members of the commission headed by former Supreme Court Associate Justice Jose Melo were University of the Philippines Regent Nelia Gonzalez and lawyer Rogelio Vinluan as General Counsel.

The lawyers' group also said that while Administrative Order No. 157 mandates that the Commission has the power to deputize the Armed Forces, the NBI, the PNP, the DOJ and any other law enforcement agencies to assist it in the performance of its functions, it does not have the power to compel the military and the police to testify, despite strong allegations they were involved in the killings.

Melo panel member: Many groups in slays

THE MILITARY, LEFTIST GROUPS and the private "goons" of politicians were all involved in a rash of politically-motivated murders in the Philippines, a member of a commission looking into the matter disclosed yesterday.

Catholic Bishop Juan de Dios Pueblos, a member of the Melo Commission created by President Macapagal-Arroyo to investigate the murder of leftist activists, journalists and officials, said it had submitted its conclusions.

"There are different results in the killings. We have identified that there are killings really perpetuated by the military," he said. "There are other killings by politicians and the military, politicians and their goons, and killings as part of a (family) vendetta.

"There are also some killings perpetrated by the leftists," he said, referring to the communist New People's Army (NPA) and its front groups.

"The thing that is bad in the country is that vigilante killings are tolerated," he said, referring to the extrajudicial murders.

Military generals appeared before the inquiry only to deny that they were involved in the murders without making any attempt to explain or investigate the killings, Pueblos said.

"I do believe they have to do more than just say that and wash their hands," the bishop said, adding leftists such as those in Karapatan, the local human rights group, had refused to speak to the commission after accusing the military of most of the killings.

He did not say which group was responsible for the majority of the murders, which have drawn strong criticism from the European Union and international human rights groups. AFP

Seattle 'suicide bridge' troubles worker-witnesses

SEATTLE—THERE'S A BRIDGE OVER SEATTLE that has troubled office workers below who keep seeing people jump to their deaths from the span.

Thirty-nine people over the past decade have committed suicide from the 46.5-meter-high Aurora Bridge— eight in 2006 alone—and counselors are regularly brought in to help office workers deal with the shock of seeing the leap or its bloody aftermath.

The neighborhood beneath the bridge used to be docks and warehouses, and the suicides went largely unnoticed. But during the technology boom of the past two decades, it morphed into a trendy area full of office buildings, shops and restaurants, and the bodies began to fall where people could see them.

At least one woman, Sarah Edwards, drives on the left side of the street near her office ever since a body landed on the hood of a coworker's car.

City and state officials, meanwhile, are adding suicide prevention signs and telephones in hopes of reducing the death toll.

The "suicide bridge," as the half-mile span has been occasionally called since it was built in 1931, carries as many as 45,000 vehicles a day on one of the main north-south highways through Seattle, passing over a narrow channel connecting Lake Washington and Lake Union.

Some jumpers hit the water; others land on the pavement or other solid ground. Either way, they almost always die. (One person is said to have survived after landing in the water.)

"They end up in our parking lot," said Katie Scharer, one of Edwards' co-workers at Cutter & Buck, a sportswear company based in the Adobe complex. "Nobody's ever totally used to it."

Grief counselors regularly go to Cutter & Buck, paying a visit as recently as a month ago.

A few weeks ago, officials installed six emergency phones and 18 signs that read, "Suicidal?" with the number of a 24-hour crisis line in bold yellow type.

"Any time you can interrupt a suicide thought process, you have a good chance of success, at least temporarily," said L.J. Eddy, head of the police hostage negotiation team. AP

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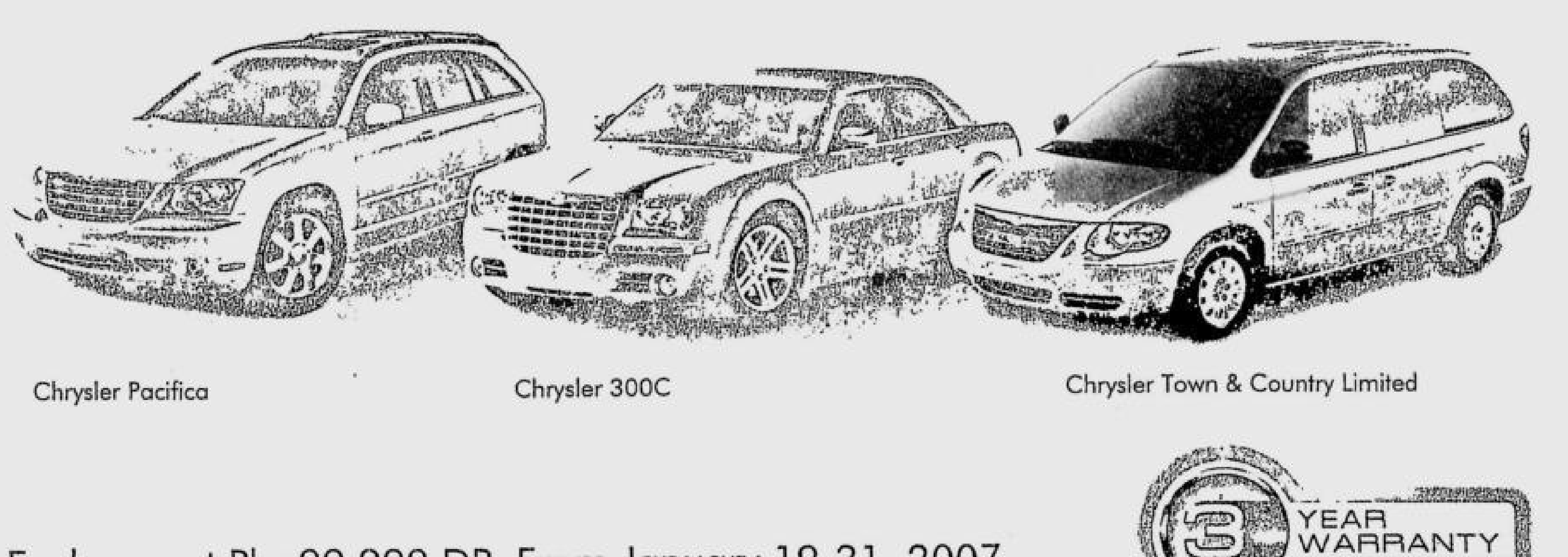

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Poll lawyers seek higher pay

By Jerome Aning

PUBLIC ATTORNEYS AND PROSecutors who will be tasked with poll-related duties in the May elections are also asking the Commission on Elections for higher pay.

In a recent meeting with Comelec officials, Public Attorneys Office chief Persida Acosta and Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño of the Department of Justice asked that their personnel be given additional compensation in the form of allowance or overtime pay during the coming elections.

Acosta said PAO had funds in place for its lawyers who would defend the teachers accused of or charged with election-related offenses such as fraud.

"What I'm asking for is an authority to allow us to disburse additional allowance for our PAO lawyers as incentive for working during the election because I cannot release any budget without prior consent or authorization from the Comelec," Acosta said.

She explained that the disbursement of funds and the movement of personnel were among the prohibited acts during the election period, unless authorized by the Comelec.

"It's a difficult because I might be the one charged with violating election law even if I never used the money," Acosta told reporters.

Zunio also aired the same fears and asked Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. that a similar authority be given to the DOJ so it could release and pay the overtime rates of prosecutors serving during the elections.

Abalos has instructed Acosta and Zunio to submit a written request to the Comelec en banc. He said the letters would be "mere formalities" since the election agency had always granted such requests from PAO and DOJ's National Prosecution Service in the past.

"It is within the purview of the law but you have to make your request formal so we could act on it," Abalos explained to Acosta and Zunio, who replied that they would first discuss how much allowances would be given to their lawyers.

In their meeting with officials of the Department of Education last week, the Comelec commissioners agreed to give public school teachers serving as election inspectors P1,000 each per day of poll duty as well as five-day leave credits.

Modern polls up to GMA

AFTER SIGNING THE POLL automation bill into law, President Macapagal-Arroyo must now dip into her contingent fund to bankroll the much-awaited modernization of the country's election system, starting with the May polls.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya pointed out that the congressmen and senators who approved the 2007 budget did not consider the poll automation law at all and did not appropriate any funds to implement it.

"Basically, we don't have the money for poll automation. But the President can allocate funds for its implementation through her contingent fund," said Andaya in an interview.

But he said that while it might be possible to find the funds, "can it still be done? Is there still time?"

The President last week signed the Automated Election Systems Law, or Republic Act No. 9369, even though the Commission on Elections declared late last year that it was impossible to automate the May elections because there just wasn't enough time to prepare for it.

Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

Now you can flip new mag's pages online

By Fe Zamora

APOSTOL

LIKE A MAGAZINE, YOU CAN FLIP its pages. But unlike a magazine, you cannot fold it or tuck it into your bag.

True to its reputation of breaking ground in the publishing industry, the digital edition of gender-equality magazine Mr & Ms will be another first in the country, its publisher and editor in chief Eugenia Duran-Apostol announced during the week.

"It's more than just a magazine, it's more than just a website. It will have the same old look and feel, but it's online," said Apostol, who founded the Philippine Daily Inquirer in December 1985.

Named Mr & Ms Active Magazine and available online in the first week of March, the digital magazine is powered by state-of-the-art Active Paper Technology, a medium that replicates the magazine en toto for cyber citizens.

The technology even replicates "how we turn the pages of the magazine," said Apostol, the 2006 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts.

One of the country's top 10 magazines, Mr & Ms (circulation, 80,000) was founded by Apostol in 1976 for the empowerment and equality of the Filipino male and female.

From equality issues, the magazine turned political with its black-and-white pullout that chronicled the anti-Marcos protest rallies spawned by the assassination of opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino on Aug. 21, 1983.

The Mr & Ms Special Edition led to the publication of the tabloid Philippine Inquirer, the weekly forerunner of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Apostol said copies of these publications which saw print from 1983 to December 1986, would also be digitalized and archived in the Mr & Ms Active Magazine.

The digital Mr & Ms, however, will not "replace the printed magazine," according to Francis Armstrong, managing director of Smedia Pty. Ltd., the Melbourne-based online technology company that developed the magazine's electronic edition.

"The beauty of the Active Paper Technology is that it allows users to create true-to-print, XML (Extensible Markup Language) based materials. The digital magazine is highly interactive, easy to search and browse and does not require any specialized programs," Amstrong said.

The Active Paper Technology also powers the online editions of Australian Financial Review, Financial Times Europe, Sing Tao Newscorp-Hong Kong and The Star Newspaper-Malaysia.

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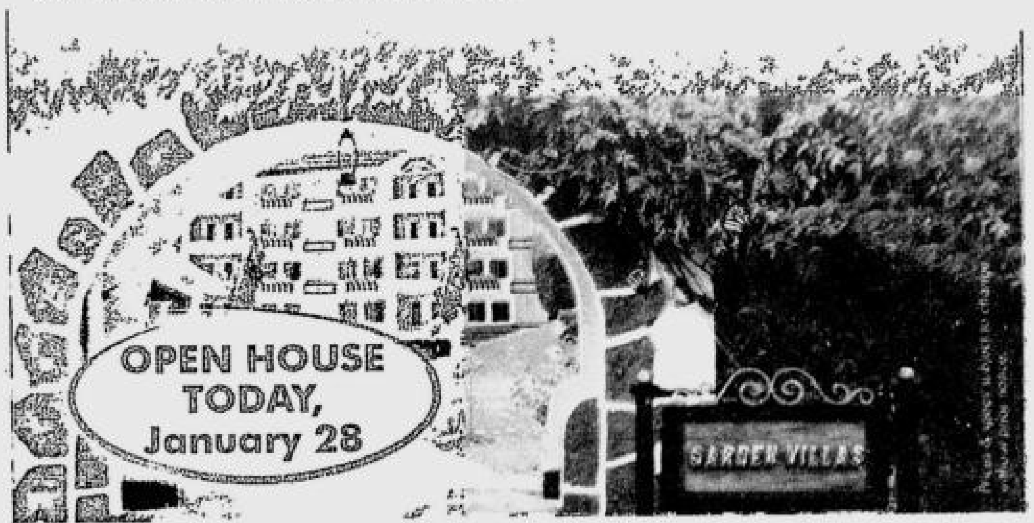

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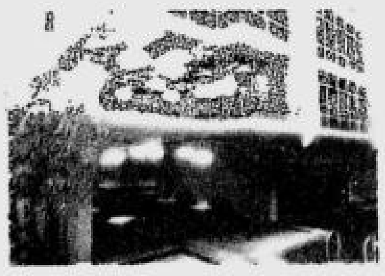

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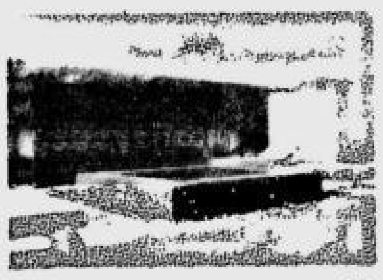

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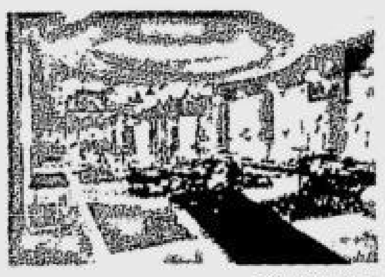

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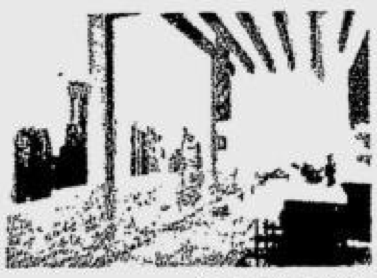

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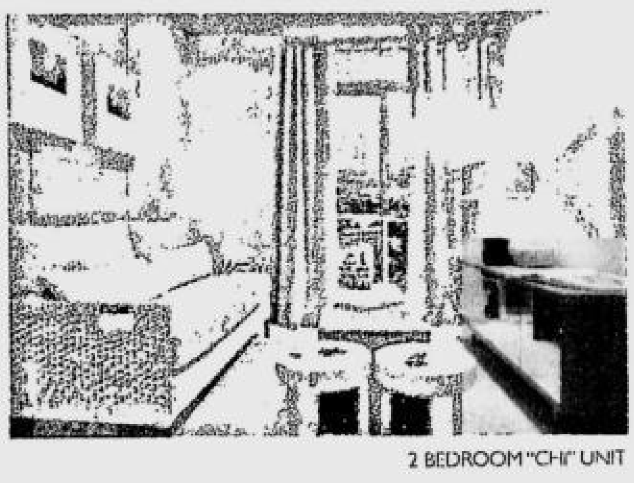

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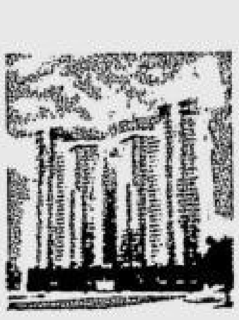

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‘Atong confession causing opposition to panic, crumble’

By Armand N. Nocum

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL GONZALEZ YESterday said the decision of Charlie “Atong” Ang to turn against his former ally, ousted President Joseph Estrada, was causing panic in the opposition and was among the reasons it was “crumbling.”

In his regular program at private radio station dwIZ, Gonzalez also disparaged the so-called “Erap” magic.

“Everybody thinks that Erap is such a big factor in politics, but he’s a falling star and they’re all starting to crumble,” he said, amid reports that Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, and former Senators Vicente Sotto III and Tessie Aquino-Oreta had bolted the United Opposition (UNO), or the coalition of the opposition.

Earlier this month, former Sen. Francisco Tatad also broke away from the opposition party, accusing it of propagating “dynastyism.”

“What’s happening now is that the opposition seems to be in disarray. They know they are just revolving around a falling star .. Estrada. Everybody, even (President Chief of Staff Michael) Defensor, is paying obeisance to Estrada thinking he carries the magic,” Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez had earlier criticized Defensor for offering to work for Estrada’s temporary liberty as a gesture of goodwill and unity with the opposition.

Other leaders in both the camps of President Arroyo and Estrada also lashed out at the proposal, describing as Defensor’s attempt to increase his chances of winning a seat in the Senate.

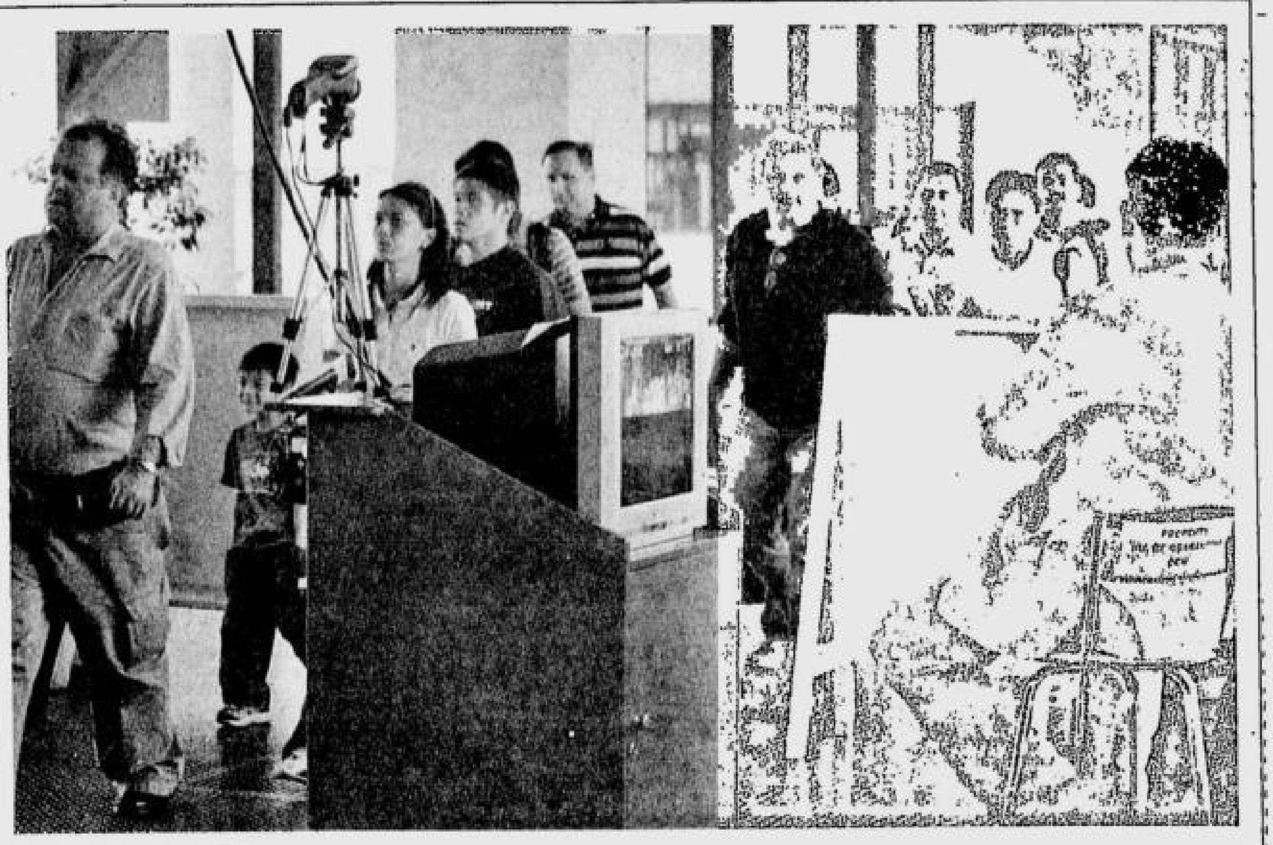
“Did not Mike Defensor consult him?” Gonzalez said, calling attention to Defensor’s admission that he consulted Estrada on key political issues, claiming that the President had made him the point man in dealing with Estrada, who is detained in his Tanay, Rizal rest house facing plunder and graft charges.

Gonzalez said the decision of Ang, a former gambling buddy of Estrada, to turn against the former President would lead to the demolition of the opposition.

“That will really be disastrous to Erap. That is why his group is now in panic,” he said, noting that an increasing number of opposition leaders had bolted UNO.

Ang, who was extradited from the US and is Estrada’s co-accused in the plunder case at the Sandiganbayan, has inked a plea bargain agreement with the Arroyo government under which he would evade a trial for plunder in exchange for spilling the beans on Estrada.

“I don’t think he can withdraw that,” he said, amid reports that Estrada was trying to have Ang turn his back on the deal.



AVIAN WARRIOR

An airport staffer (right) scans a thermal camera that monitors the body temperature of arriving passengers at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. With concerns about bird flu rising, health and aviation officials are taking steps to guard against the entry of the disease in the country. ROGER MARGALLO

Liberal Party exploring ties with Nacionalista, UNO parties

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

NAGA CITY—THE LIBERAL PARTY IS EXPLORing a possible coalition nationwide with the Nacionalista Party (NP) and the United National Opposition (UNO) in the May elections but will be flexible on the formation of local alliances, Rep. Benigno “Noynoy” Aquino III, LP vice chair of the Roxas-Drilon wing, revealed on Friday.

Aquino said the coalition of the three political groups would be announced next week, adding that there were also talks with the Aksyon Demokratiko, especially with Sonia Roco, who announced she would run in the senatorial race.

Aquino said that a massive national political machinery such as that of the Lakas-Christian-Muslim Democrats (CMD) of Speaker Jose de Venecia, which was trounced in 1998 by the Laban ng Masang Pilipino with the overwhelming victory of Joseph Estrada, did not automatically translate to victory.

He said they would push to expose the character of governance of the Arroyo administration that had been so bold as to disregard civil rights through the imposition of Executive Order 464 and overuse police power to serve its political interest.

The lawmaker from Tarlac confirmed they were for change and the battle was in the number of legislators elected that could overturn Malacañang’s influence in Congress.

Aquino saw internal weakness in the difficulty of the administration to fill up the official unity ticket for the senatorial race, which, he said, unlike the previous election, was “so crowded.”

He claimed that the scarcity of personalities seeking senatorial position under the slate of the Arroyo administration indicated unpopularity, that, he said, was exemplified by excessive use of police force against her political enemies.

Aquino said they could only wait for the result of the Senate committee hearing regarding the case of partymate Iloilo Gov. Niel Tupas Sr., who was almost physically booted out of the provincial capitol.

The assault on the Iloilo capitol was condemned by several sectors because of the use of excessive force by the police.

He said a silent majority of middle-class and poor Filipinos balked at and felt disgusted with the way the Arroyo administration has been flaunting its power around.

Roxas was here to consult with Mayor Jesse Robredo, LP leader here, and members of Metro Naga Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Stay neutral in May polls, Noli urges social workers

By Cynthia D. Balana

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO yesterday told officials and employees of the Department of Social Welfare and Development to remain neutral in the coming elections.

Speaking during the 56th anniversary celebration of the DSWD, De Castro reminded the social workers that government workers were not supposed to take sides in electoral contests.

“We are neither allies nor enemies of any political party,” he said in Filipino. “Our real enemy is poverty which strangles the life and hope of many of our countrymen.”

De Castro said he hoped to see the DSWD emerge untainted by controversy after the May elections.

In his speech, De Castro said the concept of poverty had become more complicated as a result of development studies that have deepened understanding of human needs.

He said the department’s ability to design intervention programs to alleviate the plight of the poor by teaching them how to work was already a big leap from its previous image of being a “dole-out agency.”

He cited the employment assistance program and the “Tindahan Natin” project, among others, which provide socioeconomic skills to the poor and help them become entrepreneurs.

De Castro also admitted that his first desire as a public official was to serve as secretary of the DSWD. But he said he quickly abandoned his quest “because then secretary Dinky Soliman was working so efficiently.”

“I chose DSWD then because of my desire to be in the frontline of serving the poorest of the poor which I think is the very core and the very essence of public service,” he said.

But he assured DSWD secretary Esperanza Cabral that he had no intention of usurping her seat in the DWSD, a remark that elicited laughter from Cabral, Soliman and Mita Pardo de Tavera, all former DSWD secretaries, who were also present in the ceremony.

In response to the vice president’s speech, Cabral assured him that DSWD personnel, particularly its career staff, would definitely not take part in any political activities.

“What is very important is for DSWD employees to remain apolitical and just keep focused on their function to help the poor and the other members of society. There’s no point in taking side in an exercise that does not involve service to the people,” she agreed.

Cabral said she took pride in the “unparalleled commitment and dedication” of the men and women of DSWD.

Barring of nontimber harvests studied

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND Natural Resources is reviewing a regulation suspending the use of nontimber forest products, such as rattan, vines, honey and medicinal plants, in titled forest reserves in Southern Tagalog.

Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes has directed the Forest Management Bureau to review the suspension of the harvest of nontimber products in the forests of typhoon-ravaged Quezon and Aurora.

“I’ve directed the FMB and other concerned offices to ‘fast-track’ the review of the resource use policy, considering the need to address the economic plight of many forest-dependent communities, especially the indigenous peoples,” Reyes said.

He said indigenous peoples and other communities in Quezon and Aurora could make good use of the rattan, bamboo, vine, honey, medicinal plants and other non-timber products in the forests.

The secretary said the suspension of the harvest of non-timber products in the forest reserves came after the destructive landslides and flashfloods that hit Quezon and Aurora in December 2005.

As a result, logging, cutting as well as harvesting of planted trees and non-timber forest products in titled lands had been suspended in Quezon and Aurora provinces.

In a speech last week at a conference of Local Government Units and Indigenous Peoples (IPs) in Manila, Reyes said local government units and local communities, especially indigenous peoples, are the best partners of the DENR in implementing laws and regulations designed to protect and enhance the environment.

“I appeal for stronger partnership among the DENR, local governments and the public, especially indigenous peoples, in protecting and enhancing the environment,” he said.

Reyes said the DENR was studying the deputation of community members as environment and natural resources officers.

The practice was suspended due to abuses reported in the past by some deputies. However, “a review has been conducted, and the necessary order for deputizing is being finalized,” he said.

“We consider the partnership with local government units and indigenous peoples an important element in achieving our domestic and global objectives for an improved environment,” he added. *Norman Bordadora*

Nine times more Filipino seamen able to vote this year, says Comelec

By Jerome Aning

THE NUMBER OF FILIPINO SEAFARers aboard able to vote in the May elections grew nine-fold, with Filipinos in Saudi Arabia the most numerous among land-based overseas absentee voters, according to the Commission on Elections.

Official and final statistics obtained by the Inquirer from Comelec’s Committee on Overseas Absentee Voting (COAV) disclosed that 127,947 Filipinos in Saudi Arabia are eligible to vote for 12 senators and one party-list representative beginning 8 a.m on April 14 (Manila time) up to 3 p.m. May 14.

Lawyer Kabaitan Guinhawa-Valmonte, COAV executive director, said there were 142,667 new overseas absentee voters, in addition to the previously registered 361,443.

After Saudi Arabia, the countries with the most number of registered voters were Hong Kong (96,505), the United Arab Emirates (35,304), Singapore (26,835), Italy (24,905), Kuwait (19,003), Taiwan (17,627), Brunei (12,467), the United States (11,839) and Qatar (11,494).

The Middle East accounts for 42 percent of the total 504,110 overseas absentee voters, according to COAV data.

Seaman-voters who can participate in the elections now number 18,404, compared to only 2,307 in 2004, when the presidential elections took place.

Valmonte said a seafarer could obtain a ballot from offices to be put up by diplomatic posts in 10 major ports around the world, calling attention to efforts to make voting easier for seamen.

As soon as he lands in any country, the seaman can then send his vote by mail.

COAV said there would be Filipinos voting for the first time from remote countries and territories such as Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Nepal, Turkmenistan and Mongolia in Asia; Tonga, Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu and Cook Islands in the South Pacific; Andorra, Iceland and Finland in Europe; Seychelles and Mauritius in located around the Indian Ocean and even Bermuda in the Atlantic.

In Africa, there are Filipino registered voters in almost every country, including Chad, Cameroon, Mali, Lesotho, Morocco, Kenya, Equatorial Guinea, Nigeria, Madagascar, Swaziland, Central African Republic, Sierra Leone, Togo, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

There are Filipino voters in most South American countries except in Bolivia, Guyana, Suriname, Paraguay and Uruguay.

Valmonte said the increase in the number of voters was a result of the registration booths set up by Comelec at the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration and the Ninoy Aquino International Airport to “capture” departing overseas Filipino workers and get them to register.

Some Philippine embassies and consulates abroad also conducted “field registration” in remote areas as well as in countries that are adjacent to those where there was no Philippine diplomatic presence, she added.

Valmonte said COAV hoped the introduction of voting-by-mail in almost all countries would improve voter turnout. In the 2004, elections, only about 250,000 registered overseas absentee voters actually cast their ballots.

“Voting by mail will now be the rule, rather than the exception,” the lawyer said, adding that personal voting would still be implemented in Hong Kong, in most Middle Eastern countries, and in Greece and China.

Early next month, Valmonte said, COAV chair Commissioner Florentino Tuason Jr. would be testing in Singapore an Internet-based voting technology being offered by the Spain-based firm Scytl.

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DPWH, BIR cited for lessening graft

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND Highways and the Bureau of Internal Revenue, traditionally labeled as among the most notoriously corrupt government agencies, have been cited by the government’s anti-corruption watchdog as among the top achievers in eradicating graft in the bureaucracy last year.

The Philippine Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) yesterday unveiled the top 10 most compliant agencies among the 70 government agencies it monitored in 2006 based on their adherence to the Integrity Development Action Plan (IDAP).

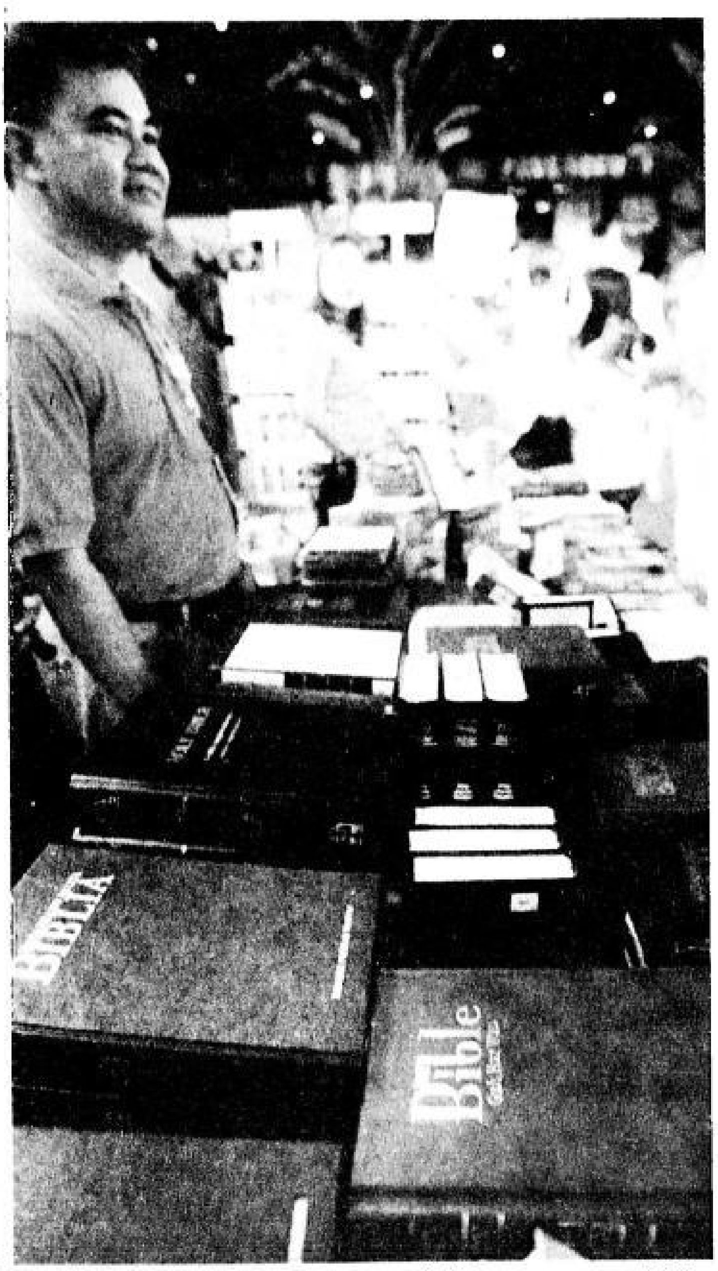
The agencies were given awards in Malacañang last Wednesday.

The top 10, from highest to the lowest, are the Department of Health , the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Department of Science and Technology , the Department of Trade and Industry, the BIR, the DPWH, the Philippine National Police, the Office of the President, the Department of Education, and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

Both the BIR and the DPWH have consistently been on the top list of most corrupt and most insincere in fighting corruption among government agencies.

“We would like to acknowledge the genuine efforts that these agencies have exerted to support our fight against corruption through their conscientious implementation of IDAP, and encourage them to sustain their commendable performance,” said PAGC chair Constancia de Guzman.

“This recognition does not only distinguish the extent by which anti-corruption schemes have been put in place in these agencies; but more importantly, this is an indication of the political will of their leaders in supporting our resolve to minimize if not totally eradicate corruption,” De Guzman added.



THE HOLY BOOK. Bookshops around the country sprout Bibles of different sizes and provenance as the nation celebrates Bible Week. The last week of January is designated National Bible Week by Presidential Proclamations 44 and 1067. REM ZAMORA

Blame Luli Arroyo's ma for release of Chinese poachers, say fishermen

EVANGELINE LOURDES "LULI" ARROYO should blame her mother, President Macapagal-Arroyo, for the Chinese poachers who got away scotfree, said the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) fisherfolk group.

"If she really wants this case resolved in the name of national sovereignty and patrimony, she should tell her mother to stop her tin-cup diplomacy," Pamalakaya national chair Fernando Hicap said in a statement.

The militant group was reacting to a statement by Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez that his department was pursuing charges against 30 Chinese poachers caught in the Tubbataha Reef Natural Park in December, noting that Luli Arroyo was monitoring the case.

Gonzalez had said Luli was angered on learning that a previous case against 24 Chinese poachers caught off Mangsee island in Balabac, Palawan, last October was dropped and the foreign fishermen allowed to go free.

Hicap said it was Gonzalez who issued the order to drop the case and release the 24 Chinese fishermen.

He said the Gonzalez order emanated from the President herself upon the request of the Chinese Embassy in Manila.

"There's no doubt about it. The President is behind this massacre of truth and justice and she cannot deny it even if Malacañang moves heaven and earth to score another giant kill," he said.

Last week, Pamalakaya released to the media a letter allegedly from Chinese Ambassador Li Jinjun to Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo and Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap asking them to intercede for the release of the Chinese fishermen.

On Friday, Palawan authorities disclosed that Gonzalez had ordered the provincial prosecutor's office on Jan. 22 to drop the cases of poaching and use of explosives and toxic substances against the 24 Chinese poachers.

The boat of the arrested fishermen was found to contain dynamite fish and live reef fish.

Opposition Sen. Jamby Madrigal has claimed that of 900 foreigners caught poaching in the waters off Palawan, around 660 were Chinese.

She said almost all of the arrested fishermen escaped prosecution by leaving the country after posting bail, except for 17 Chinese who were arrested in 2004 in Balabac and subsequently convicted for fishing without a permit.

But the convicted foreign fishermen were recently pardoned by the President and their vessels released after they paid a $50,000 fine.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

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NCLEX	2/28	1/24	2/15
CGFNS			2/1
NLE RC	1/22	2/5	2/10
NLE TP	3/26	BERLITZ CLASS	
NPTE	2/5	MANDARIN 2/17 (QC)	
PN	2/12	NIHONGGO 2/17 (QC)	
MT	2/12	BERLITZ DEMO CLASS	
CAREGIVER	2/5 & 2/14	2/17 (MLA)	

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, January 28, 2007
4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Jer 1:4-5, 17-19

A prophet to the nations I appointed you.

A word of Yahweh came to me, "Even before I formed you in the womb I have known you; even before you were born I had set you apart, and appointed you a prophet to the nations.

Get ready for action; stand up and say to them all that I command you. Be not scared of them or I will scare you in their presence.

See, I will make you a fortified city, a pillar of iron with walls of bronze, against all the nations, against the kings and princes of Judah, against the priests and the people of the land. They will fight against you but shall not overcome you, for I am with you to rescue you—it is Yahweh who speaks."

2nd Reading: 1 Cor 12:31-13:13 (o 13:4-13)

The greatest of these is love.

Be that as it may, set your hearts on the most precious gifts, and I will show you a much better way.

If I could speak all the human and angelic tongues, but had no love, I would only be sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. If I had the gift of prophecy, knowing secret things with all kinds of knowledge, and had faith great enough to remove mountains, but had no love, I would be nothing. If I gave everything I had to the poor, and even give up my body to be burned, if I am without love, it would be of no value to me.

Love is patient, kind, without envy. It is not boastful or arrogant. It is not ill-mannered nor does it seek its own interest. Love overcomes anger and forgets offenses. It does not take delight in wrong, but rejoices in truth. Love excuses everything, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love will never end. Prophecies may cease, tongues be silent and knowledge disappear. For knowledge grasps something of the truth and prophecy as well. And when what is perfect comes, everything imperfect will pass away. When I was a child I thought and reasoned like a child, but when I grew up, I gave up childish ways. Likewise, at present we see dimly as in a mirror, but then it shall be face to face. Now we know in part, but then I will know as I am known. Now we have faith, hope and love, these three, but the greatest of these is love.

.Gospel: Luke 4:21-30

Like Elijah and Elisha, Jesus was not set only to the Jews.

Jesus began to speak in the synagogue, "Today these prophetic words come true even as you listen."

All agreed with him and were lost in wonder, while he kept on speaking of the grace of God. Nevertheless they asked, "Who is this but Joseph's son?" So he said, "Doubtless you will quote me the saying: Doctor, heal yourself! Do here in your town what they say you did in Capernaum."

Jesus added, "No prophet is honored in his own country. Truly, I say to you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens withheld rain for three years and six months and a great famine came over the whole land. Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow of Zarephath, in the country of Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha, the prophet, and no one was healed except Naaman, the Syrian."

On hearing these words, the whole assembly became indignant. They rose up and brought him out of the town, to the edge of the hill on which Nazareth is built, intending to throw him down the cliff. But he passed through their midst and went his way.

Commentary

This is the calling of the prophet—from before he was born in his mother's womb. He is known, dedicated and charged with the Word, and no matter what happens, God is with him to deliver him. And we too have been called, dedicated and charged, and given the Word and gifts besides, specifically the gift or the calling to live with love—love that is down to earth, practical, careful of the needy, treating them with the love God has shown to us all; a love that is patient, sensitive to others, holding others in high regard, rejoicing with others. Love never fails. How are we at loving—one another, family, neighbors, the Body of Christ/Church and our nation and enemies?

Jesus is a prophet and those in his own family, his neighborhood and even religious community refused to listen to him—they kept him in categories where they could see him as they wanted him to be, and so not listen to him. First they are amazed, and then they are skeptical, and then they seek to kill him, filled with indignation and self-righteousness. Are we prophets, followers of the Word of the Lord? Are we supportive of prophets in our times/places or are we indignant at being told the truth and so react in violence?

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Honasan to do a 'Ninoy': Win behind bars while kids campaign for him

By Marlon Ramos
Inquirer Southern Luzon

STA. ROSA, LAGUNA—GREGORIO "GRINGO" Honasan is out to duplicate what Ninoy Aquino did: Win a Senate seat from behind bars.

Not that Honasan would dream of comparing himself to the martyred opposition leader, said his lawyer, Danny Gutierrez.

HONASAN

"[But] he recalled that despite [Ninoy] being a detainee in Laur, Nueva Ecija, he still won. His daughter Kris Aquino campaigned for him," said Gutierrez.

Actually, the late senator, Benigno Aquino Jr., who was allowed to take part in the Batasan Pambansa elections in 1978 from his prison cell, lost with the entire ticket of his Lakas ng Bayan (Laban) because of widespread fraud.

Gutierrez said that Honasan's five children were ready to run the campaign for their father who is detained on coup charges at the Fort Sto. Domingo police camp here.

He said Honasan's youngest daughter Aika, 18, is keen to do what Kris did for her martyred father.

Makati Judge Oscar Pimental has allowed the ex-senator and cashiered Army colonel to personally file his certificate of candidacy on Feb. 7.

The judge and state prosecutor JP Navera recently came to check on Honasan after the latter's lawyers filed a petition for his transfer to the Makati City Jail.

"I think he's okay," Pimentel told reporters, but did not give details on what they talked about.

Navera said the prosecution would oppose the petition and insist on Honasan's continued detention at the police camp.

He said the fort was "well equipped" to hold high-security-risk prisoners like Honasan who should not be jailed with ordinary detainees in the Makati jail.

Gutierrez said he and Honasan's eldest son Kim will lead the campaign which they will run on a "shoestring budget."

He said rock singer Barbie Almabis, who is married to Honasan's son Martin, will write the campaign jingle.

"We will try our best to have Honasan join the campaign even for a day towards the end of the campaign period. We will also ask the court to let the media interview him inside the camp," he said.

Honasan, he said, was banking on name recall and his "track record as the most environment friendly senator."

Some of the environmental legislation that the jailed ex-senator is supposed to have authored are the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, the Solid Waste Management Act and the Land Use Act.

"He will also continue his advocacy to help soldiers and policemen. He will continue his reform agenda to make these two institutions less susceptible to political pressures," he said.

Honasan's lawyer filed another petition for Honasan to be allowed to have his leg X-rayed and to undergo a medical checkup.

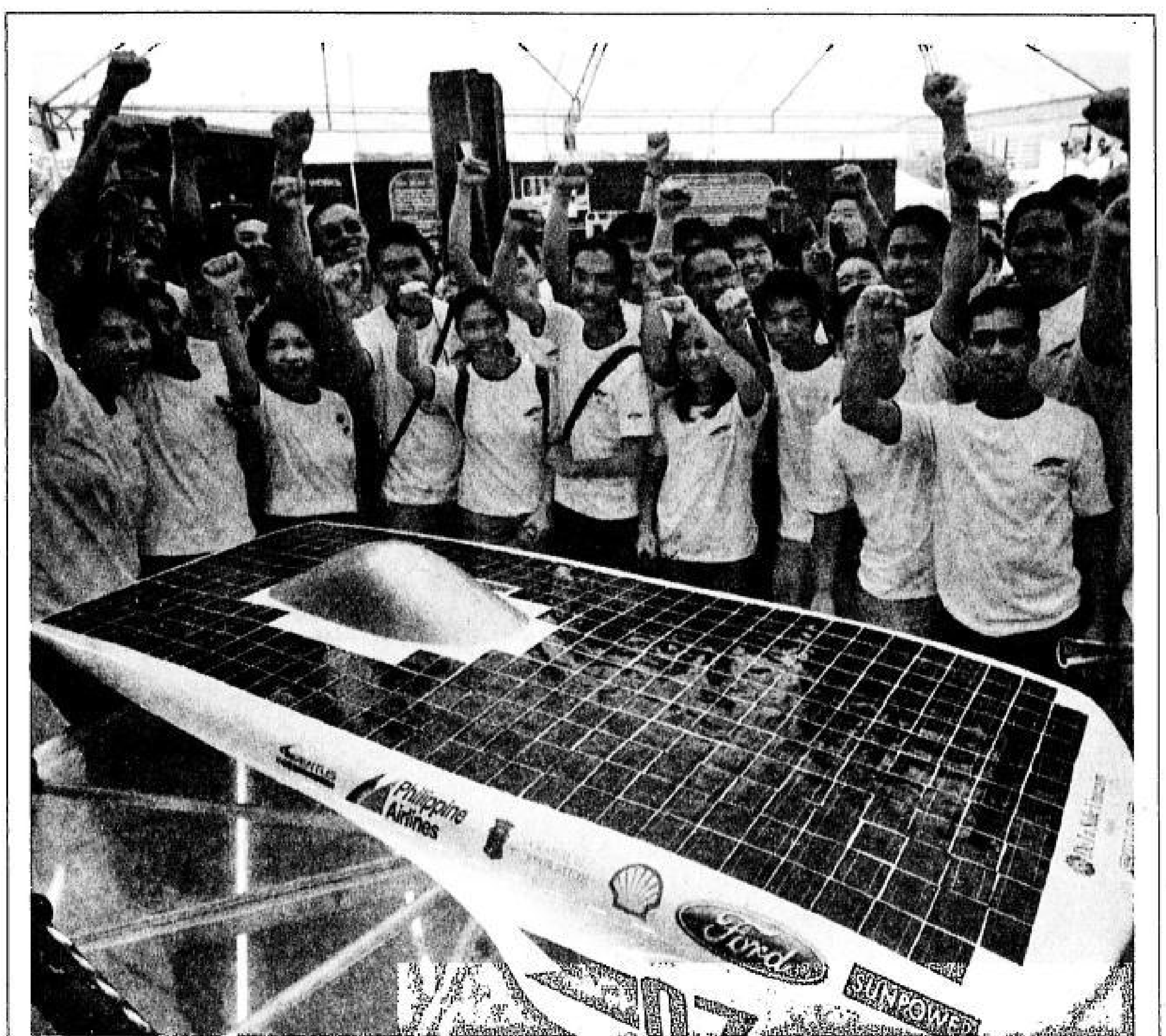
Honasan hurt his right foot during his capture in November 2006 after he jumped from a roof of a townhouse while trying to elude the police who were closing in on him.

Though he is getting better, Honasan cannot walk straight and without crutches, the lawyer said.

He said Pimentel and the prosecution did not oppose Honasan's plans to seek medical attention.

Another issue that Gutierrez would like to raise is access to the prisoner for his lawyers and relatives.

He said Honasan's custodians have been very strict. Lawyers and relatives are not even allowed to take their mobile phones with them whenever they visit him, he said.


ONE HOT CAR!
Students and faculty members of De La Salle University in Manila show off the solar car prototype they built and named Sinag during its inauguration run at Fort Bonifacio in Taguig City. Sinag, believed to be the first solar car built in the country, aims to promote the use of alternative sources of energy. Its makers are joining the World Solar Challenge 2007 to be held Oct. 21-28 in Australia. ***(See story below.)***
REM ZAMORA

'Supermaid' program not exempt from new requirements, says DOLE

By Jerome Aning

LABOR SECRETARY ARTURO Brion yesterday denied that the Department of Labor and Employment had already granted exemptions to its new "supermaid" deployment policies in the face of loud protests by Filipino domestic workers in Hong Kong

Reacting to an INQUIRER report from Hong Kong, Brion said the DOLE was not insensitive to the concerns of household service workers, but clarified that it had not agreed to the proposals for exemptions forwarded by the 700-member Federated Association of Manpower Exporters Inc. (FAME), particularly regarding the 25-years-old minimum age and additional skills training requirements.

The new policies, which also pegs a minimum wage of US$400 and prohibits recruitment agencies from collecting placement fees, were imposed by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) starting last Dec. 16, ostensibly to enhance Filipino competitiveness as "supermaids" and minimize cases of abused Filipino maids abroad.

But the reform package has been denounced as an ill-conceived scheme, and is being met with protests in Hong Kong where close to 121,000 Filipinos comprise about 52 percent of the foreign domestic work force.

The militant United Filipinos-Migrante group denounced the new training requirements as an unnecessary burden on their time, and yet another form of government "super extortion." The training fee is said to cost between P8,000 and P10,000, plus a P1,000 fee for two training certificates.

The federation of recruiters, in an advisory to its agitated members, reported that government officials were agreeable to giving exemptions to the training requirements, particularly for workers who already had experience in overseas work in HK and Taiwan; and to the reduction of the minimum age requirement from 25 to 21. Labor Undersecretary Danny Cruz confirmed in a telephone interview with INQUIRER contributor Daisy Mandap that the agreements outlined by FAME did take place.

Countered Brion: "Although there was indeed a proposal, there were no agreements reached yet whatsoever, contrary to a media report." He said he would meet next week with the POEA governing board, which he chairs, to tackle FAME's proposals.

"Let us see what the governing board will say," Brion said.

FAME president Eduardo Mahiya said the new policies will only embolden illegal recruitment syndicates to ply their trade and fatten the pockets of those in the "escort system" at the country's airports. Under this system, underage and undocumented overseas contract workers have reportedly been able to leave the country because they were escorted through the immigration gates by corrupt government personnel.

"The POEA might just as well ban the deployment of domestic helpers rather than hide behind the cloak of regulatory niceties it calls reforms," Mahiya said in a statement.

According to Emmanuel Geslani, consultant of several Manila-based recruitment agencies, about 20,000 maids, who already had jobs in Hong Kong and Taiwan, but who were vacationing or processing their new contracts here during the holidays, were stranded and unable to leave because of the new deployment policies.

"These maids are very indignant and angry since many of them are being threatened with termination by their employers for their failure to return to work," he said. The new training courses could set back their departure by up to two months.

But Brion said DOLE remained firm on its stand that it was "high time" government enhanced the protection and welfare of Filipino domestic helpers abroad.

Brion noted that a majority of welfare cases abroad involve domestic helpers who are ill-prepared for overseas work.

Mahiya, however, argued that age, salary or training have no direct bearing on domestic helper abuses.

Another lawyer shot dead in Sorsogon

SORSOGON CITY—ANOTHER lawyer was shot dead late Friday afternoon in yet another violent incident in the province of Sorsogon.

Dennis Valencia had just completed court duties at the Bulwagan ng Katarungan here and was on his way home when an undetermined number of suspects shot him as he stepped out of the gate of the Bulwagan compound along Flores Street at around 4 p.m.

The victim was a son of Judge Mirafe Valencia of the Matnog Municipal Trial Court.

Police Chief Insp. Julito Gallego, chief of the Provincial Scene of the Crime Office, said they recovered at the crime scene six spent cartridges and one deformed slug from a .45-cal. pistol.

Insp. Salvador Retuerma, one of the police officers who responded to the incident, said no eyewitness had come forward as yet.

The police had no suspects and no possible motive yet, said Sorsogon City Police Chief Supt. Formoso Argarin.

The crime scene was on a busy intersection in the city proper.

Insp. Sammy Realuyo, head of the intelligence section of the Sorsogon City Police Office, said he was with Valencia at the Bulwagan minutes before the shooting where the victim defended a drug suspect.

Realuyo said he didn't notice anything unusual until he left the building.

Lawyers here expressed alarm over the incident, citing the impunity with which the killers were able to carry out the slaying.

"It seems that there is no more safe place here in the province," a prosecutor said.

An official of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines-Sorsogon chapter said the incident would have a chilling effect on the community and it would definitely raise fear among the Sorsoganons.

The IBP official who refused to be identified said the killing now puts everyone else in danger as the killers remained free.

It would be recalled that another lawyer, Gil Gojol, was killed on Dec. 12 last year in Gubat town when two armed men gunned him down as he was returning to Sorsogon City from court duty.

A case has yet to be filed against the suspects in the Gojol killing. *Bobby Q. Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Shell not ruling out refinery expansion

PILIPINAS SHELL PETROLEUM Corp., a unit of Royal Dutch Shell Plc, has not closed the door to the future expansion of its 110,000-barrel per day refinery, according to a senior official of the oil firm.

Ed Chua, chair of the Shell group in the Philippines, said yesterday the company might be able to reconsider the project in two to three years.

"What is definite is that we will not be able to push through at this point with the major investment that we were considering," Chua told reporters on the sidelines of the launch of the first Philippine solar-powered car. *(See photo above.)*

"The problem is, when we look at the budget, the actual cost is 40 percent higher. The reason behind that is that right now, all over the world, there is a huge demand for services, raw materials, equipment, so it does not make sense," he said.

Chua said that a planned initial public offering of shares of Pilipinas Shell hinged on the expansion of its refinery.

Earlier this week, Shell said it had decided to stop studying an expansion to its refinery in Tabangao, Batangas, due to increased costs.

Last year Shell executives had initially estimated the cost of the expansion at between $1 billion and $1.5 billion.

"What we will do is just wait for the market to cool down. Maybe that will take two to three years, and after that, then that is the time we will revisit (the expansion plan)," Chua said.

In the meantime, Chua said, the company was studying options on how its refinery would meet stricter fuel standards to comply with the Clean Air Act.

Earlier this month, Congress passed another law requiring refiners to blend biofuels produced from local crops such as sugar and coconuts with gasoline and diesel as part of an effort to reduce the country's reliance on expensive imported crude.

"I would hope that we will continue to upgrade, but this is not yet final," Chua said, adding the initial cost of the upgrade was estimated at $100 million to $200 million.

Petron Corp., the Philippines' largest refinery with a capacity of 180,000 barrels of oil per day, has spent $100 million on upgrading its facilities to produce cleaner fuels.

The company, owned by the government and the Middle East oil giant Saudi Aramco with equities of 40 percent each, is also spending another $300 million for new refinery units aimed at expanding the volume of its petrochemical products.

Shell put its refinery business in the Philippines under review after rival Caltex (Philippines) Inc. closed its 72,000-bpd refinery in the country in late 2003 and converted the facility into a storage depot for petroleum products.

Caltex, which is owned by Chevron Corp., said its 49-year-old refinery was too small to compete in the Asian market and too outdated to produce cleaner fuels required under the Philippine environmental laws.

The Philippines imports most of its oil requirements of about 330,000 barrels of oil per day. *Reuters*

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Int'l experts call for end to negative mining practices

A FACT-FINDING REport calling for an end to destructive mining in the Philippines was launched Thursday at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila.

The report detailing the findings of a fact-finding mission led by Clare Short, former minister for development of the British Parliament, was launched simultaneously at Westminster Hall in London.

The team composed of human rights advocates and environment experts visited the Philippines between July and August last year to examine the impact of mining on the environment and people's livelihoods.

In her foreword to the 66-page report, Short said that she was "shocked by the negative impact of mining in the Philippines," and that the Philippine government and the mining companies had "failed to comply with national law and international standards."

The report also noted the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines' opposition to the 1995 Mining Act and plans for a massive expansion in mining.

A key recommendation in the report was for the Philippine government to "demonstrate that it is willing to adhere to its own laws and to international mining best practice and standards by immediately canceling all current mining applications, which will inevitably cause major environmental damage to critical watersheds, ecosystems, agriculture or fisheries and result in social disruption."

It also called for the government to "heed the calls to revoke the Mining Act of 1995 and enact alternative legislation that more effectively protects the interests of the affected local communities, indigenous peoples and the environment."

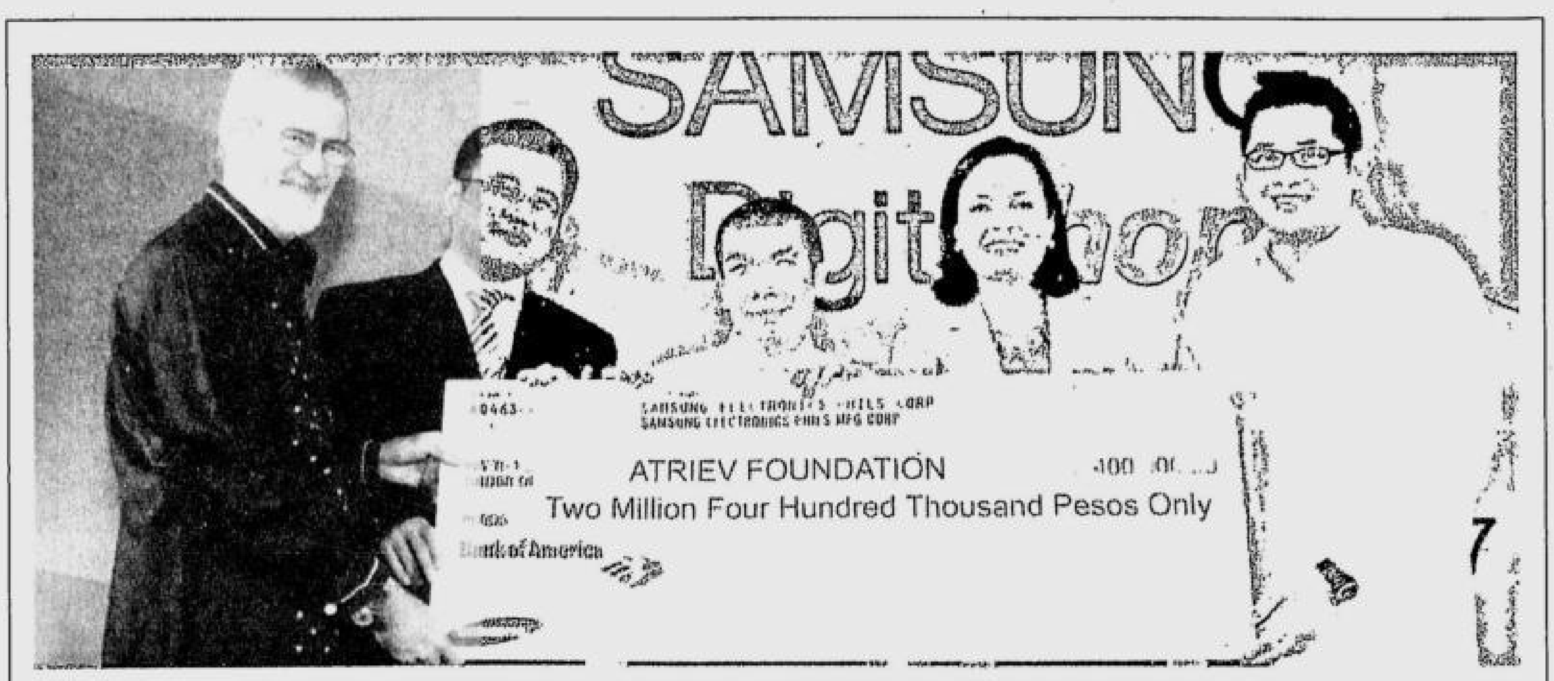
Guest speaker Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said he found the report not only accurate but comprehensive.

"As the only senator from Mindanao and as the author of the Local Government Code that is cited in the report, I can attest to the veracity of the complaints of the tribal groups in Mindanao who are being oppressed by government policies relating to two extractive industries—mining and logging," he said.

Among those present at the launch were Marvic Leonen, vice president for legal Affairs of the University of the Philippines, and Vicky Tauli-Corpuz, representative to the UN Permanent Forum for Indigenous Peoples.

The launch was organized by the Missionary Society of St. Columban, Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy, Irish Centre for Human Rights, Trocaire, Philippine Indigenous Peoples Links, and Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM).

For inquiries, call the ATM Secretariat at tel. 426-6740, e-mail nc@phildhrra.org (59 C. Salvador St., Loyola Heights, Quezon City), or visit www.phildhrra.org.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BLIND GET HELP 'TO SEE'. Two hundred blind Filipinos will benefit from a P2.4-million grant Samsung recently awarded to ATRIEV (Adaptive Technology for Rehabilitation, Integration and Empowerment of the Visually Impaired) to help in training programs such as Access Technology in Popular Applications, English Proficiency, Medical Transcription and MIDI Musical Transcription. Receiving the grant is ATRIEV founder Peter Wallace (left). Others in photo are (from second from left) Samsung vice president for marketing-consumer electronics Dong Ha Jang, ATRIEV president Tony Llanes and Samsung Digitall Hope judges Margie Moran-Floirendo and Bam Aquino.

Ombudsman OKs abuse raps vs 2 teachers

By Norman Bordadora

OMBUDSMAN MERCEDITAS GUTIERREZ on Friday approved the filing of criminal charges against two public school teachers for allegedly subjecting their students to verbal and physical abuse.

Gutierrez approved separate recommendations for the filing of charges against Nora Peralta of Quirino Elementary School in Quezon City and Erlinda A. San Gabriel of Sto. Niño Special Education Center in Tacloban City.

The two were accused of violating Republic Act 7610, or the Act Providing for Stronger Deterrence and Special Protection Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination.

Peralta is alleged to have verbally abused and humiliated a second-grader after the child failed to answer most of the questions in a written test in October 2004.

It was found out later that the pupil was unable to attend a lecture Peralta gave prior to the test as the student was the designated classroom cleaner that day.

The student then began crying when she found out that she had scored low in the test.

"[Peralta] got angry with [the girl's] incessant crying that she ordered some male students to forcibly carry [her] to the front of the classroom, causing [her underwear] to be exposed to the class," the Ombudsman information said.

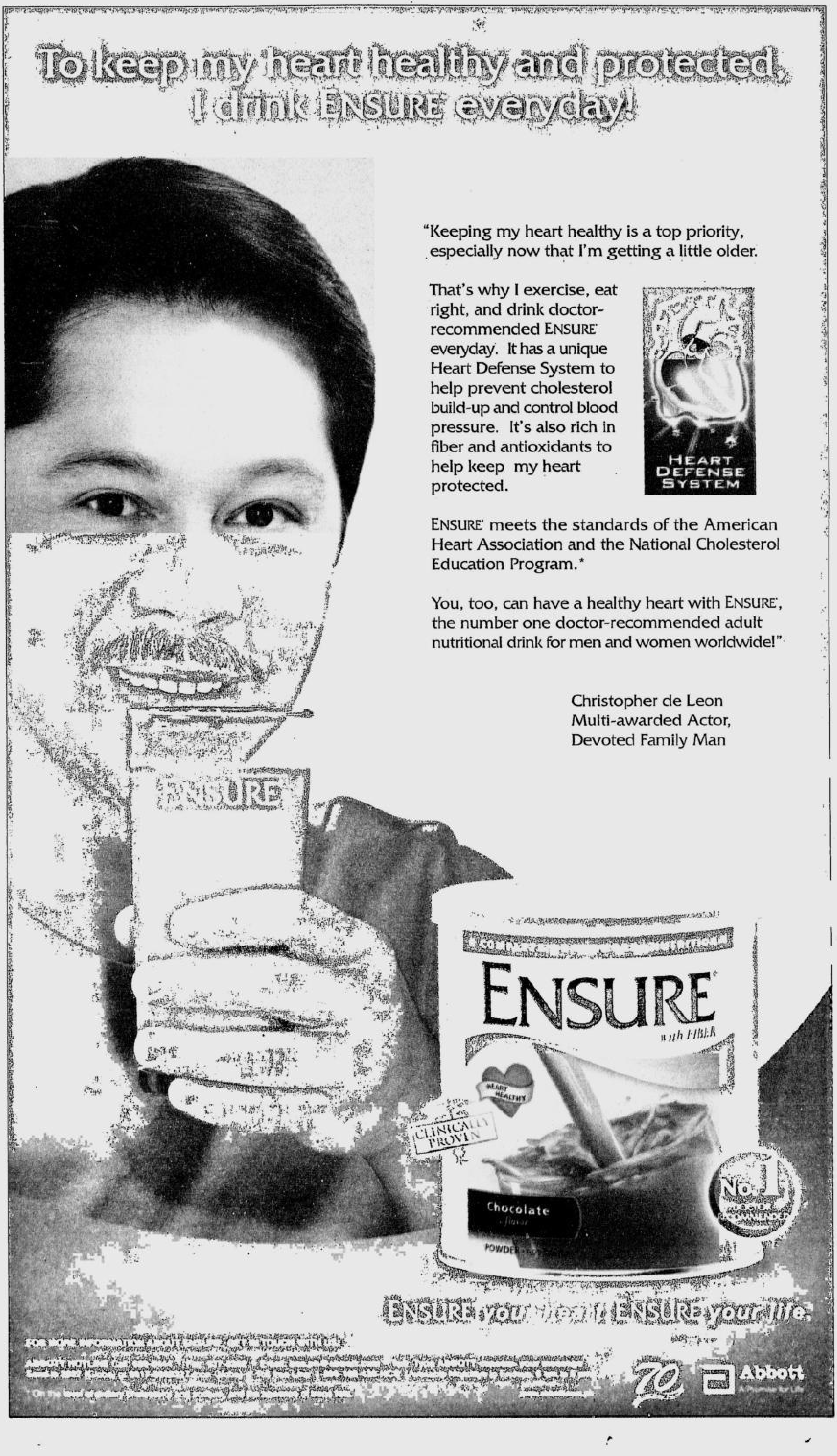
In a statement to investigators, one of the victim's classmates said she heard Peralta tell the victim in Filipino: "You ought to be checked by a doctor. You're a mental case."

The student's parents, who filed the complaint, said their daughter refused to go to school after the incident and would wake up screaming in the middle of the night.

San Gabriel was found by investigators to have abused one of her Grade 3 pupils "by tearing his notebook apart and physically pulling him out of his desk where he was seated, telling him that he did not deserve to be seated there."

In her complaint, the third grader's mother said the teacher kicked her son in the legs and stepped on his feet even as he lay on the floor.

"He was told not to attend respondent's class anymore," the mother said in her complaint.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Abbott

Filipino of the year: Antonio Meloto, dreamer behind GK

From page A1

Gawad Kalinga is a "great miracle happening across the country," enthuses the motivational/inspirational guru Bo Sanchez who also calls Meloto a "dreamer."

A close second to Meloto was Judge Benjamin Pozon of the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 139 for "his independence in deciding the Nicole rape case."

OFW

The overseas Filipino worker (OFW) got nine votes for his "nobler sacrifice ... of missing out on their children's growing-up years ... to provide them with at least the basic necessities" and for their dollar remittances which hit an all-record high of $14 billion in 2006, that kept the Philippine economy afloat and competitive." They are "courageous long-distance runners battling pain, despair as they strive to complete a journey of hope, "writes one editor to explain his vote.

Panganiban court

Truly, the OFWs have been the Filipino of the Year every year since they were first deployed in the '70s In 994, the INQUIRER made it official. It named the OFW Filipino of the Year for "no reason is as compelling as the blood, sweat, toil and tears that they shed every moment they are abroad."

The Panganiban Supreme Court got six votes for "reaffirming the Filipinos' flagging faith in the judiciary" through a series of landmark decisions (calibrated response policy, EO 464 and the People's Initiative, among others that frustrated the "despotic bent of the country's most powerful politicians."

Pacquiao

Already in 2003 the INQUIRER hailed Manny Pacquiao as a "national treasure" and Filipino of the Year. He was again in the running for 2006. He received six votes in the main for unifying the politically fractious country whenever he fights, and has his countrymen "sold on the idea that when he fights, he fights for the pride of the nation."

Chief Justice Panganiban

Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban himself reaped three votes for his "independence and judicial activism" despite his decision to "legalize GMA's Malacañang takeover" [in 2001 when he administered the oath of the office to then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, explains one voter].

'Nicole'

"Nicole" got two votes for displaying "courage amid strong pressure from a superpower as well as from the government. She showed how we "must react when [our] rights and dignity have been trampled upon."

Filipino performing artist

Also noteworthy is the Filipino performing artist who bagged two votes as they "continue to reap honors for the country despite limited support from the government and the private sector. The Filipino performing pool deserves to be acknowledged and nurtured. Our performers are a natural resource that never runs out of steam, style and stock."

Bravo! The INQUIRER salutes them all.

After Edsa I, Gawad Kalinga Filipinos' next gift to the world

From page A1

and Cambodia, and that will soon open in East Timor, India, Nigeria and Nicaragua.

And while Gawad Kalinga is about many people, its public face is that of one man: Tony Meloto.

Any person is not only the product of particular circumstances but also the result of institutional forces, of a history that is as much one person's as it is a nation's.

The Tony Meloto so proudly pointed out by fellow Filipinos today is the product of the influences of his time, and of previous times.

His circumstances have surely been duplicated in many others, yet are unique in having inspired a way forward for so many. It is a way forward others have tried to find for generations.

Building communities

In internal exile in Dapitan, Jose Rizal set out to build communities—the best preparation, he felt, for a new nation.

The Katipunero Pio Valenzuela claimed that Rizal had once told him: "Tell our countrymen that, at the same time that we are preparing for a war against Spain, I desire to see a college established in Japan which will be converted later into a university for Filipino youths. I shall be greatly pleased to be the director of said college."

To the end, the First Filipino refused to be the Philippines' first politician.

What would have happened if the great reformers—Raul Manglapus, Manuel Manahan, Francisco "Soc" Rodrigo, to name just a few—had refused to enter politics and done what Rizal set out to do, and Tony Meloto has done?

In the 1960s, the reformist was scorned ("clerico-fascist" was a term often used). In a sense, the same skepticism continues to reign in radical circles.

But in 1967, the year Meloto entered the Ateneo de Manila, a transformation was taking place. It had its first glimmerings in the "work a year with the people" program to bring doctors to far-flung barangays, which was begun by Manglapus, another Atenean.

And just as Manglapus' efforts would find political vindication only decades later in the careers of barrio physicians such as Juan Flavier, so did the Gawad Kalinga of today find itself born out of the contradictions of 1960s Philippine society.

Genuine stewardship

Speaking to a younger generation of Ateneans last year, Meloto described the insight he had gained—and, thus, the core belief that now animates Gawad Kalinga.

"Because we love our children, not pity them," he told his audience, "we do not give them charity and abandon them after doing so. We sacrifice and invest in their future. With the way poverty is growing in this country, they will not be safe or secure here unless we move from charity to genuine Christian stewardship and bring our people out of poverty. Neither will they be whole anywhere in the developed countries, where they will be seen or feel second-class even if they are rich or successful, as long as the Philippines remains poor and corrupt, because we are viewed collectively as a people."

What Meloto did was to resist the urge to involve only people like himself; what he accomplished was to bring together those previously assumed as mutually incompatible.

When he first began, he worked not to change the nation but, rather, to improve the lives of a few—the Adduros.

In helping them, he did so with concrete goals in mind but a limitless vision nonetheless: If it will work for one family, it will work for many more.

And work for many more it has.

The Adduro model

The Adduros were composed of the father, Enteng, jobless at that time; the mother, Mode, a laundrywoman; and all five of their children. (In 1999, the children were out of school, and two of them were gang members.)

Gawad Kalinga provided Enteng a job. Mode became the head of the neighborhood microfinance effort, and all the children went back to school. Four have since graduated from college (two with a 2-year degree in computer science); the youngest is in his last semester.

The Adduros' home has expanded through their own efforts to become a 92-square-meter house where once they were content with a 30 sq.m. dwelling of more permanent materials.

Their community, the first Gawad Kalinga community, sponsored by Filipinos from Northern California, has grown to include 2,000 homes in 18 villages in Bagong Silang, Caloocan City—places that provide a decent life for 10,000 Filipinos who thought seven years ago that their lives would never change.

And as Bagong Silang has gone, so has the nation: The 1,000 Gawad Kalinga communities all over the country directly affect the lives of half a million poor Filipinos regardless of location or religious creed. (For example, Christians and Muslims are working side by side in building the 25 Gawad Kalinga communities for Muslims in Mindanao.)

P8B in 8 years

And the army of volunteers who give their time and talents to the cause give so generously that their efforts can now be quantified.

Developmental experts estimate the total development generated by Gawad Kalinga at more than P8 billion in a little over as many years (P3 billion for houses, P0.5 billion for schools, clinics and other infrastructure, P2 billion for land and site development, P2.5 billion for social preparations, donated professional services and volunteerism, programs for health, education and livelihood).

The major sources of funds are corporations and sociocivic groups, the national and local governments, Filipino organizations abroad, schools and universities, and philanthropic families and individuals here and overseas.

While the sources are many, they have common characteristics— they are not subject to graft, are neither liable for misuse nor susceptible to abuse in aid of electioneering, and are devoted to the common good.

And the resources transcend borders. The government of Canada has been giving aid directly to Gawad Kalinga, especially for calamity victims; American companies like AIG USA, Fedex, UPS and Proctor & Gamble send funds from their head offices.

Neither does it for diplomatic or commercial advantage.

View the scale of the resources raised in these comparative terms. The entire budget of the Department of Agrarian Reform (P1.9 billion) plus the capital outlays for the Department of Education (P2.9 billion) plus the budget of the University of the Philippines system (P4 billion): The figure only slightly exceeds what Gawad Kalinga has raised.

Disproving truisms

To understand the significance of Tony Meloto requires seeing that he has disproved two truisms—that change can only come from reforms imposed from above, and that it can only be accomplished through a revolution from below.

He has dispelled an assumption central to both truisms—that change requires force, either political will or force of arms.

He has shown that brute force or pragmatic politics need not trump principles. He does so because he has harnessed People Power to fill in the gaps that politics can never fully address.

Gawad Kalinga is a potent force of 200,000 volunteers—a force that dwarfs the entire strength of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, which is 130,000 strong.

Meloto has mobilized those numbers because he knows that all mobilizations, if they are to last and have a beneficial effect, must appeal to the practical but be based on self-sacrifice.

Partnership, peace

The independent life of our nation has been a story of strife, but people like Tony Meloto have shown that an alternative lies in partnership, and peace.

To be sure, what Meloto set out to do is nothing new. What is new is that he has forged ahead and has something to show for it.

Turning principle into practice, and practice into a recipe for success, is his authentic, trailblazing, achievement.

TURNING PRINCIPLE INTO PRACTICE: Meloto with poor families who are building their homes with their own sweat. No doleouts. With Magsaysay Award (above).

INQUIRER PHOTO

PDI FILIPINO OF THE YEAR

1	**1991 Raymundo Punongbayan**	Man against Pinatubo's fury, Jan. 1, 1992
2	**1992 Haydee Yorac**	Filipino of the year, Jan. 2, 1993
3	**1993 Juan Flavier**	Filipino of the year, Dec. 31, 1993
4	**1994 Overseas Contract Workers**	The overseas contract worker, Jan 1, 1995
5	**1995 Filipino Everyman (Juan & Juana dela Cruz)**	Victim & victor, Jan. 1, 1996
6	**1996 Fidel V. Ramos**	Engineer of 2 brilliant coups, Jan. 5, 1997
7	**1997 Corazon Aquino & Jaime Cardinal Sin**	People power revisited , Jan. 8, 1998
8	**1998 Joseph Estrada**	Anti-hero on wings of hope, Jan. 10, 1999
9	**1999 Corazon Aquino**	Icon of People Power returns , Jan. 9, 2000
10	**2000 Justice Hilario Davide**	Yes, Your Honor , Jan. 14, 2001
11	**2001 Supreme Court Justices**	They saved constitutional system from collapse, Jan. 13, 2002
12	**2002 Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo**	Sacrifice on the altar of national unity, Jan. 10, 2003
13	**2003 Manny Pacquiao**	RP sports brat becomes national treasure, Jan. 11, 2004
14	**2004 Fernando Poe Jr.**	Mourning an unfulfilled dream, Jan. 23, 2005
15	**2005 SEA Games Filipino Athletes**	At last, a celebration of national pride and unity, Jan. 15, 2006

Pittance collected for RP disaster victims, UN laments

RENEWING ITS APPEAL FOR ASsistance, the United Nations has reported that "only 7 percent" of the estimated $46 million needed for the recovery of the victims of last year's killer typhoons in the Philippines has been received.

"Thus far, apart from Canada and the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund, very few donors have made substantial contributions," according to a UN bulletin released on Thursday.

The UN and its partners put out an appeal for $46 million (roughly P2.25 billion) in December last year after four successive typhoons left more than 1,400 people dead or missing, and more than seven million more affected.

"Funds are needed immediately to implement urgently needed assistance and to kick-start crucial recovery measures," the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said in a statement posted on the UN News Center website.

The OCHA noted that of the millions affected, "the most vulnerable include a half million people in the Bicol region alone who need emergency shelter kits so that they can leave crowded evacuation centers.

"Those whose lives have been disrupted will require food aid as well as clean water, sanitation facilities and strengthened health systems to ward off potential disease outbreaks," it added.

"Hundreds of thousands of people in the Bicol region and others devastated by the typhoons will receive assistance more quickly and be able to start rebuilding their lives if the humanitarian community receives the necessary funding to provide emergency aid," said Nileema Noble, the UN resident coordinator in the Philippines.

The UN said the World Food Programme, in partnership with NGOs like Care, the Philippine National Red Cross and Plan, has been distributing food aid to almost 100,000 people in three provinces.

In the meantime, acting Foreign Secretary Edsel Custodio and Japan's Chargé d' Affaires in the Philippines Eiichi Oshima formalized on Friday the 111,000,000 yen (approximately P48 million) contribution of the Japanese government to the food-for-work program for the people affected by Typhoon "Reming" in southern Luzon.

Social Welfare Undersecretary Celia Yangco, the representative of the executing agency, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, witnessed the ceremony.

Under the program, beneficiaries will receive food aid in exchange for doing eight hours of community service, empowering the typhoon victims in restoring their normal routines and providing them with a livelihood to sustain their daily needs.

The assistance is in addition to the emergency relief goods, worth 20 million yen (approximately P8.6 million), donated by Japan also last December. *Volt Contreras*

Doctors set major meet on hypertension control

DOCTORS ESIMATE THERE ARE NOW 7.7 million Filipinos with high blood pressure, and several millions more with other risk factors like abnormal cholesterol (dyslipidemia) and diabetes.

If the risk factors are not controlled, these individuals are at risk for heart attacks and strokes. Some of them could literally drop dead.

Detecting these "at-risk" patients before they develop serious complications and treating them properly are big challenges to physicians. Learning new research data and technology to address these challenges are the objectives of the 12th Joint Annual Convention the Philippine Society of Hypertension (PSH) and the Philippine Lipid and Atherosclerosis Society (PLAS) to be held at the Crowne Plaza Galleria from Jan. 31 to Feb. 2.

The convention's scientific theme is: "Decision-making in Hypertension and Dyslipidemia Prevention and Intervention in Specific Populations."

PSH and PLAS are composed of cardiologists, neurologists, endocrinologists, nephrologists, general internists and other specialists who treat patients with atherosclerosis. Twenty-two other organizations of allied professionals are closely collaborating with PSH and PLAS in the convention.

The organizing societies said the prevention, diagnosis and management of cardiovascular disease and its risk factors are of fundamental importance to public health and require a cooperative and multidisciplinary approach.

"Primary care physicians play a key role in the identification of patients and the treatment of the majority of at-risk patients," said Dr. Ruby Go, PLAS president.

"We hope to build strong partnerships and fortify professional networks in the prevention and care of cardiovascular disease," Dr. Nelson Abelardo, PSH president, said.

For several years now, the PSH and PLAS have been reinforcing health initiatives by various governmental and nongovernmental organizations that are effective in the local population.

The scientific program of the convention consists of updates on recently published researches and clinical trials which provide guidance to practicing physicians on scientific and evidence-based management approaches for their patients. Dr. Abelardo and Dr. Go, however, explained that medical practitioners had to find the balance between the guidelines and the realities of the local clinical setting.

Dr. Abelardo and Dr. Go, cochairs of this year's organizing committee, have invited physicians, nurses, nutritionists and other allied professionals to attend the three-day convention. Medical residents and interns may register for free. There will also be a lay forum for patients and potential patients who may be at risk to develop atherosclerosis and heart diseases. Interested parties may call the secretariat at tel. 687-7073, 687-2841, 631-7970 or 0917-6255810. There will also be on-site registration.

Foreign tourist arrivals hit record 2.84M in '06 but fall short of target

By Jerome Aning

FOREIGN TOURIST ARRIVALS REACHED A record-breaking 2.84 million in 2006, but still fell short of the three million target set by the Department of Tourism for the year.

South Koreans topped the list of foreign tourists for the first time, according to data provided to the INQUIRER by DOT's tourism research and statistics division.

A total of 572,133 Koreans visited the country in 2006, up by 16.9 percent compared to 2005.

Tourists from the United States, who numbered 567,355, came in second place, but with only a 7.4-percent growth rate.

Altogether, Koreans and Americans comprised about 40 percent of the total 2,843,345 foreign tourist arrivals in 2006.

The Japanese ranked third in terms of volume and percentage share. The 421,808 Japanese who visited the country last year comprised 14.8 percent of total visitors.

China, DOT's biggest market, ranked fourth with 133,585 visitors, but posted the highest increase at 24.3 percent among the country's top 10 sources of foreign visitors.

The rest of the top 10 were Taiwan (114,955), Australia (101,313), Hong Kong (96,296), Singapore (81,114), Canada (80,507) and the United Kingdom (68,490).

About 1.34 million or nearly half of the foreign tourists came from East Asia, according to DOT.

Compared to 2005, there were more tourists from Brunei, Indonesia, Iran, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Mexico, Colombia, Netherlands, Finland, Ireland, Greece, the former Serbia-Montenegro, Russia and the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Poland and Nauru in 2006.

According to the DOT, tourist arrivals breached the half-million mark in March and the one-million mark in May. Arrivals also exceeded 200,000 in all months of last year except September.

Meanwhile, visiting overseas Filipinos, or those with Philippine passports and permanently residing abroad but are not migrant workers, totaled 146,365, representing a 16.7-percent growth.

DOT undersecretary for tourism planning and promotions Eduardo Jarque Jr. said that tourism receipts or revenues earned directly and indirectly from foreign tourists' spending were still being calculated.

In 2005, the influx of tourists brought about $3 billion in revenues for the country.

A study conducted last year by economists from the University of Asia & the Pacific found that every peso spent by a foreign tourist in the country has an indirect additional impact of P2.50 on the economy.

Jarque said the increase in tourist arrivals would also translate to more jobs in the tourism sector and its supporting industries such as hotels and restaurants.

The Philippine Travel Agencies Association, however, said arrivals could have been higher if there were more resort and hotel rooms in the country.

According to the group, the country has been losing up to $400 million in foregone tourism revenues annually because of inadequate hotel rooms, particularly in the provinces.

PTAA president Jose Clemente III said this was based on the estimated 500,000 tourists that the Philippines was losing to other countries each year because of the lack of facilities and infrastructure.

Suspects in broadcaster's slay face murder charges

ILOILO CITY—THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE has ordered the filing of murder charges against two suspects in the 2001 killing of Aklan broadcaster Rolando Ureta.

In a five-page resolution dated Jan. 16, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez reversed the Dec. 6, 2004, ruling of the Aklan provincial prosecutor's office that dismissed the complaint against Jessie Ticar, Amador Raz and two unidentified suspects in the killing of Ureta.

Gonzalez said in his order that the petition for review filed on April 26, 2005, by Ureta's widow, Emely, was "impressed with merit."

Emely welcomed the DOJ order. "I was losing hope after twice being denied by the Aklan prosecutor's office. But our family's prayers have been answered and I hope Roland will be finally given justice," she told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

The DOJ resolution gave credence to the testimony of the lone witness, Gerson Sonio, who said that on Jan. 3, 2001, he saw Ticar on board a motorcycle driven by Raz and later saw Ticar repeatedly shooting a man along the national highway in Barangay Bagtu, Lezo, Aklan, 7 km west of the capital town of Kalibo.

"The record is bereft of any showing that Sonio was prompted by ill will in testifying against the respondents. Absent (of) the most compelling reasons, it is inconceivable why a witness would openly concoct a story that would send an innocent man to jail," Gonzalez said in his order.

The witness had said that he knew the suspects even before the killing and recognized them because of the light coming from a lamppost.

He had said that he also recognized the motorcycle used by the suspects in the killing of Ureta.

Ureta was driving a motorcycle on his way to his parents' house when two suspects on another motorcycle drove alongside and shot him.

Ureta fell into a ditch but he managed to reach a house by the national highway before the suspects finished off the victim.

The broadcaster, a program director of radio station dyKR of Radio Mindanao Network, hosted the nightly program, "Agong Nightwatch."

He was investigating the proliferation of illegal gambling and illegal drugs in the province when he was killed.

Ureta is among the 83 journalists murdered since 1986 whose killers remain free.

Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Inquirer Visayas

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Bush to GMA: Good job

From page A1

tween the United States and the Philippines.

Bush said the cooperation between the two countries was "fantastic," and promised to "keep it that way."

"It's a good lesson on what can work and how we can make it work," he said, according to Bunye.

In response, Ms Arroyo said the ongoing campaign was "a great paradigm for peace in Mindanao, and that is something that we can share with the world."

Ms Arroyo is a staunch supporter of the US-led war on terror. Immediately after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States, she offered Philippine air space and military camps for use by US troops.

Philippine and US officials say American troops provide technical intelligence, training and weapons, and have sometimes evacuated wounded soldiers in the ongoing operations against the Abu Sayyaf in Jolo, Sulu.

They deny reports that US soldiers are involved in direct combat.

Last week, the Philippine military confirmed the killing of Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khadaffy Janjalani and his likely successor, Abu Sulaiman, in separate clashes with Philippine troops in Sulu.

Big shot, little shot

Washington had offered a reward of up to $5 million each for Janjalani and Sulaiman.

ARROYO: Mindanao model AP

BUSH: Fantastic cooperation AP

In a Reuters report, Bush called Ms Arroyo a "big shot" for being among world leaders at the WEF, and she told him he should have been at the conference, too.

"No. I'm not a big shot. I am just a little shot," Bush replied, as quoted by Bunye.

Bunye said Bush also told Ms Arroyo that he would instruct his US trade representative in Davos to discuss trade issues related to the Group of 33.

The G33 is a bloc of emerging countries seeking more equitable agricultural trade policies with its trading partners, the United States and the European Union.

Asean cooperation

In her speech on "Asean's 40 Years—A New Future" at the Congress Hall of the Congress Center, Ms Arroyo talked about the concrete steps that her administration had taken on the war on terror.

She said the world continued to face the problem of terrorism but that because of the cooperation between and among its members, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations had been winning the fight, as demonstrated by the Philippine military's successful campaign in Mindanao.

"We have decimated the Abu Sayyaf and important elements of the [regional terror group] Jemaah Islamiyah," the President said.

As a result, "their lair has become smaller because the grasp of peace is now wider in Mindanao," she said.

In response to a question during the open forum on how her administration was able to win its war on terror, Ms Arroyo said she employed "hard and soft power."

She said hard power referred to the military campaign, and soft power, to non-military approaches, including joint military exercises that included the construction of roads and bridges as well as joint intelligence campaigns.

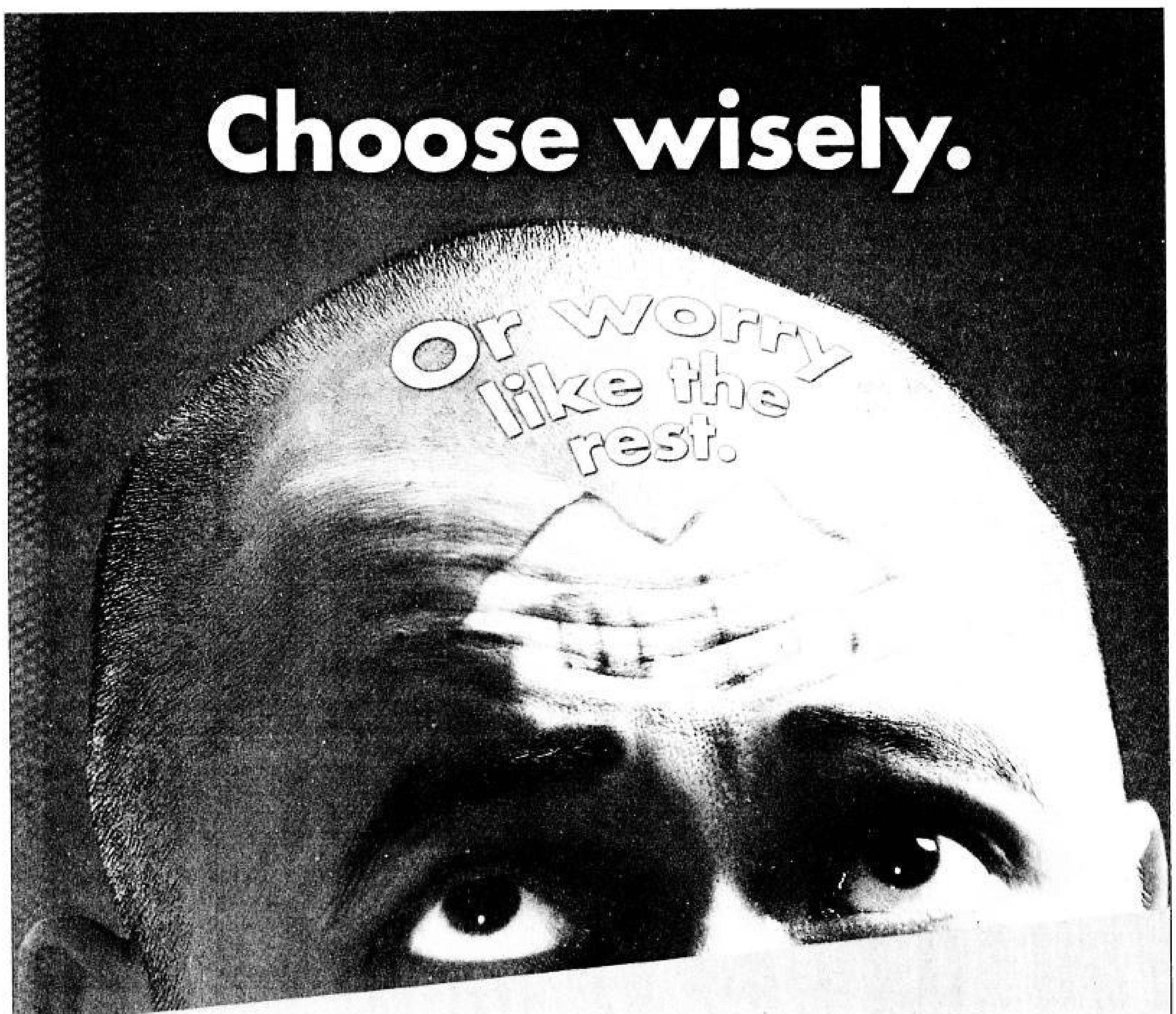
Mindanao model

Because of this "Mindanao model" that brought in other countries such as Malaysia into the domestic campaign, extremists have failed to open another front in Southeast Asia, Ms Arroyo said.

She said this was institutionalized at the 12th Asean Summit in Cebu City early this month, where the leaders signed the Asean Convention on Counter-terrorism, the first binding agreement to stamp out terror groups operating in the region.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo had earlier said the key elements of the comprehensive, regional approach to fighting terror were: "promoting interfaith dialogue, addressing the economic and social issues that extremists exploit, and actively resolving conflicts that extremists seek to fuel."

With a report from Reuters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Mike A star by his wom

From page A1

Arroyo said. The First Gentleman was interviewed at the Hotel Meierhof where the President opened a luncheon discussion on the "Asean Economic Roadmap."

According to Mike Arroyo, the couple hasn't even had the chance to go around this ski resort in the Swiss Alps and enjoy the snow and the exhilarating below-zero temperatures.

The President has been too busy, either meeting with key international political and economic leaders gathered here for the five-day WEF annual meetings, or sitting in front of a computer working on her speeches and presentations.

Last-minute decision

"She is very hardworking. I believe this is also why our economy has been improving," he said.

It was a last-minute decision for the First Gentleman to join the President on this important trip, and he is not at all sorry that he did.

"Just like any supportive husband, you feel happy if your wife does something good," said Mike Arroyo.

There was no lack of occasion for him to bask in his wife's reflected glory.

On Friday, the First Gentleman looked on as Ms Arroyo, dressed in a simple and elegant black suit under a heavy black coat, delivered the o ing remarks during discussion "Asean's Economic Roadmap" which she proudly asserted tha 10-member Association of Sout Asian Nations was now ready to its place among the world's m trading blocs.

Praise for GMA

Among the some 80 business an litical leaders who packed the h restaurant was AirAsia chief Ant Fernandes who praised the Pres for the rapid development of the dado Macapagal International A in Pampanga.

AirAsia is the Malaysian-b "low-fare, no-frills" airline that fl to the Clark Special Economic where the airport is located. Fro hub in Kuala Lumpur, the airline f more than 40 destinations in Asea China.

But the President's shining ment was to come later that eve at the Congress Hall of the Con Centre here when she sat with t Asean leaders, Vietnamese P Minister Nguyen Tan Dung Malaysian Prime Minister Abd Ahmad Badawi, in a panel discu on "Asean's 40 years—A New ture."

Ms Arroyo opened the me with a discussion on how Asean now faced with the twin challe

CONSTRUCTION SCION Michael Romero, son of Reghis Romero II, bagged on koi breeding competition in Tokyo besting 1,500 fishes from around the world. S Japanese and international contests.

Pinoy koi breeder raises

From page A1

ure ice skating.

Romero, who is chief executive officer of Harbour Centre Port Terminal Inc. and team-owner of HCPI amateur basketball squad, was finally convinced by family and friends to publicize his after-work passion after his most recent victories.

Last Jan. 21, one of his three entries in the 2007 All-Japan World Koi Show won the most prestigious "Kokugyo" or National Fish Award, besting 1,500 fishes from around the world. His two other entries also won first and second place in their respective classes.

The event held at the Ryutsu Center in Tokyo is considered a sort of Olympics by exotic fish aficionados, with the awarding rites marked by coat-and-tie formality.

Billion-dollar industry

Koi breeding is more than just your average backyard hobby but "a billion-dollar industry," said Romero, who has a PhD. in business management from the United States. (Among the fellow breeders he bumped into at the program was a Japanese industrialist who collects racing cars on the side.)

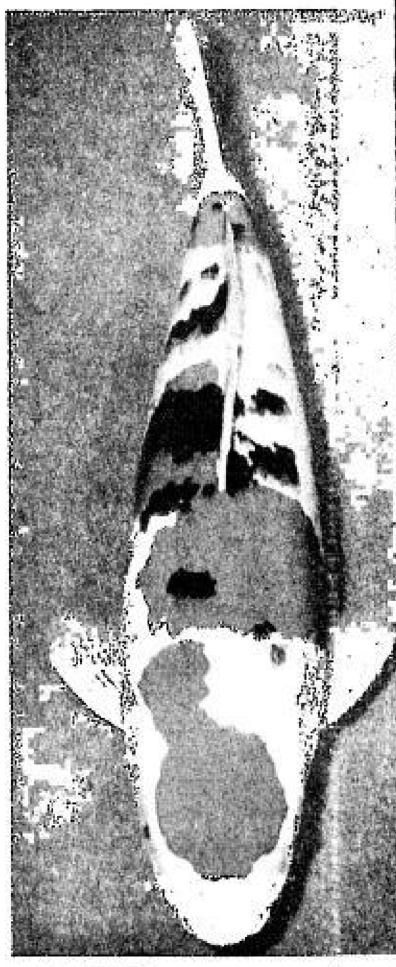
"We have placed our country on the map of the koi society, and I personally want to promote this hobby here," Romero said during an interview with the INQUIRER at his home in Greenmeadows, Quezon City. Although his winning fishes were still in Japan at the time, he has a garden pond which holds his current collection of 25 plump kois.

While a beginner can buy his first imported "pet" koi for as low as P300 a piece, the more serious breeders should be ready to make heftier investments, including hiring a trained "handler."

Thus, behind Romero's winning streak, is a card-bearing, "certified koi judge" named Michael Hernandez.

"High-grade koi collecting is relatively new here compared to other Asia tions, but our rate of apprec growing," Hernandez said, addin he can only count 30 to 50 Filipin can be considered collectors.

The two Mikes declined to sa much a collector needed to sp to Romero's level, but they ga Prior to the competition, one of Ro winning fishes could already fetch



SO ZEN: Kois are ornamental carp to bring good luck to its breeders. It for the backyard hobbyists. It is a bil dollar industry.

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an

To be more competitive in the Asian region and to take advantage of the opportunities presented by its fast-growing neighbors, China and India.

Mindanao model

The professor in the President came to the fore during the open forum where she confidently fielded questions from the floor, ranging from how her administration was containing the insurgency in Mindanao using methods that have been referred to as the "Mindanao model."

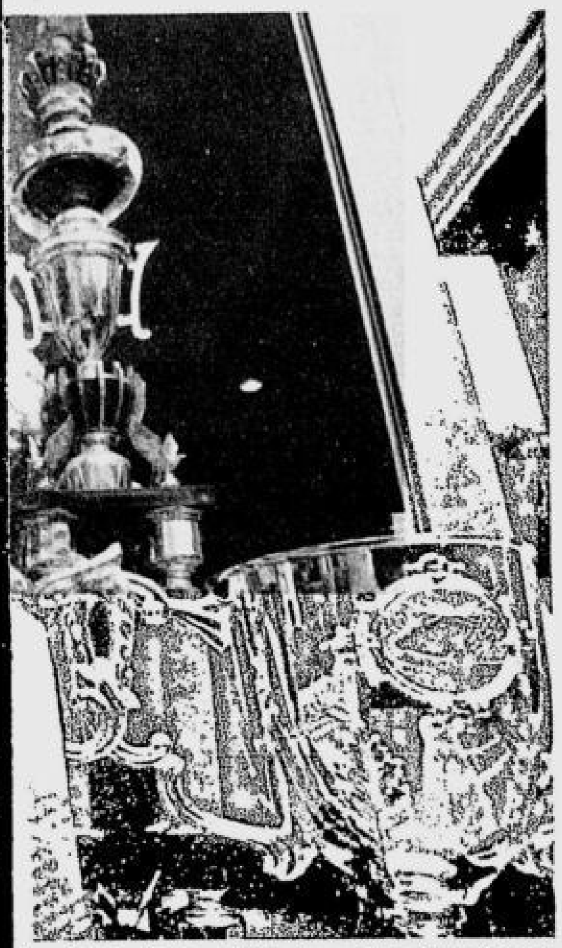
Ms Arroyo told a mostly Asian audience that with the Mindanao model to address the insurgency, "the Abu Sayyaf's lair is now smaller because the grasp of peace is now wider in Mindanao."

The President also bravely touched on the problem of Burma and how Asean was dealing with it. *(Story on Page A17.)* When she came right out and said that Burma's ruling junta should democratize soon and release Aung San Suu Kyi, the pro-democracy leader under house arrest, some in the audience nodded in agreement and Badawi expressed his support.

Ms Arroyo's part in the session ended at well past 7 in the evening, but she had a new round of meetings ahead of her. And the First Gentlemen was likely staying by her side.

PRESIDENT Arroyo serves notice to about 80 business and political leaders during dinner at Belvedere Hotel in Davos hosted by Sicpa Chair Maurice Amon that the 10-member Asean is now ready to take its place among the world's major trading blocs.

MALACAÑANG PHOTO



Jan. 21 the National Fish Award, the Olympics of
ince 2002, he has won a total of 15 awards in

PHOTOS BY ERIK ARAZAS

national pride

digit price tag in pesos. After winning awards, a Japanese breeder offered to buy the same fish for triple the amount.

"I look at them, and it's like looking at paintings," said Romero, a son of construction magnate Reghis "RII" Romero.

"Collecting good quality koi entails artistry and taste," Hernandez said. "Not everyone with the resources can decipher a high-caliber koi."

Judging kois

But how exactly do you judge a winning koi?

Hernandez explained that 80 percent of the effort that goes into producing a champion is finding the right "blood line." The remaining 20 percent goes into the quality of food, water, and overall "care."

A fish in competition is evaluated for its body shape (the more robust, the better), the brightness of its colors, and the pattern it creates. The array of colors should strike some kind of aesthetic "balance" between the right and left sides of the fish, as well as between its head and tail end.

Delightful to the eye they may be, kois are actually hardy creatures who, like humans, can grow until 50 to 70 years old if tended to properly, Hernandez said. "They can eat anything that people eat."

Beauty contest

"But if you're into it seriously, it becomes an exact science," Romero added. "You even check your water for oxygen and bubble content."

Despite all that pampering and preparation, everything still depends on how the fish would impress judges on the actual day.

Romero said: "It's like a beauty contest. The winner may not actually be 'the' most beautiful among the contestants; she wins because she is the most beautiful 'right now.'"

Indeed, it's the stuff of Zen.

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OPINION

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Pacman's guns

EDITORIALS

WE WRITE, NOT ABOUT BOXING ICON MANNY Pacquiao's celebrated fists, which have time and again brought honor to the country, but about his gun ban exemptions. Last week, the Commission on Elections granted him exemptions from the election-related gun ban for a total of 20 firearms. Even for a world-famous boxer, the number seems excessive; worse, the arrangement that surrounded the exemptions strikes us as both underhanded behavior and dangerous precedent.

First, we are concerned about the secrecy, bordering on deception, that attended the wholesale grant of exemptions. Pacquiao, who was mobbed by Comelec staff when he visited the election agency's head office in Intramuros, gave a different, indeed a noble-sounding, reason for the visit. Pacquiao, the INQUIRER's 2003 Filipino of the Year, said he went to the Comelec to offer his support for the commission—in particular, to boost public confidence in the controversy-tainted agency.

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos, who had served as his promoter back in the days when he was just starting out as a boxer, happily gave interviews, reinforcing Pacquiao's version of the events. (If only restoring the credibility of the election process were as easy as a boxing idol's 1-2-3!)

It took enterprising reporters to discover the real reason for Pacquiao's sudden visit: He was there to secure exemptions from the election-related gun ban.

Second, we are less than satisfied with Abalos' late, and lame, rationalization for the wholesale exemptions, after they came to light. He said the applications were not all in Pacquiao's name; some were in the name of Pacquiao's family members, some in the name of his security guards.

To be sure, exemptions are within the discretion of the Comelec; to a certain extent, the appreciation of an applicant's situation—his state in life, the risks he faces—cannot be reduced to a formula. The Comelec must have some elbow room for judging the threats to an applicant's life.

But is there anyone who seriously believes that even a single one of those 20 firearms was not for Pacquiao's benefit, or that of his family? Did Pacquiao simply find himself in the position of running errands for friends or family?

Third, we are disturbed by the sheer number of firearms involved. Yes, we are aware of the kidnapping threats that the police in General Santos City say face Pacquiao and his family. But if risk of abduction is the criterion, does that mean that hundreds of Chinese families in Binondo, Manila will enjoy a similar wholesale grant of exemptions?

Yes, we are aware that Pacquiao's growing and hard-earned wealth constitutes a tempting target for kidnappers. But if wealth is the criterion, does that mean that, say, Henry Sy, the founder of the SM Group and the businessmen often acknowledged as the country's richest, will also enjoy a similar wholesale grant?

If the kidnapping threats are serious, nothing prevents the authorities from assigning policemen to guard Pacquiao.

Our point is: 20 guns for Pacquiao seem out of all proportion. The number qualifies his security force as a private army; isn't there a law against that?

Chavit's guards

IT WAS ANOTHER DISTURBING SIGHT. ILOCOS Sur Gov. Chavit Singson rushed to the Senate last week to confront Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, who had denounced Singson's apparent and allegedly undue influence over the Ombudsman.

But the photograph that circulated afterwards unsettled many.

It showed Singson striding down one of the hallways of the Senate, followed by a train of burly barong-clad bodyguards. We do not know if they had been disarmed at the entrance; we certainly hope so, we certainly hope that it is both basic policy and standard procedure for visitors to turn in their guns at the gate. Otherwise the halls of Congress would be a tinderbox, only a single temper flare-up from exploding.

But the sight of Singson surrounded by several bodyguards **inside** the Senate was enough to raise eyebrows even among the President's allies. Does this powerful man recognize any limits?

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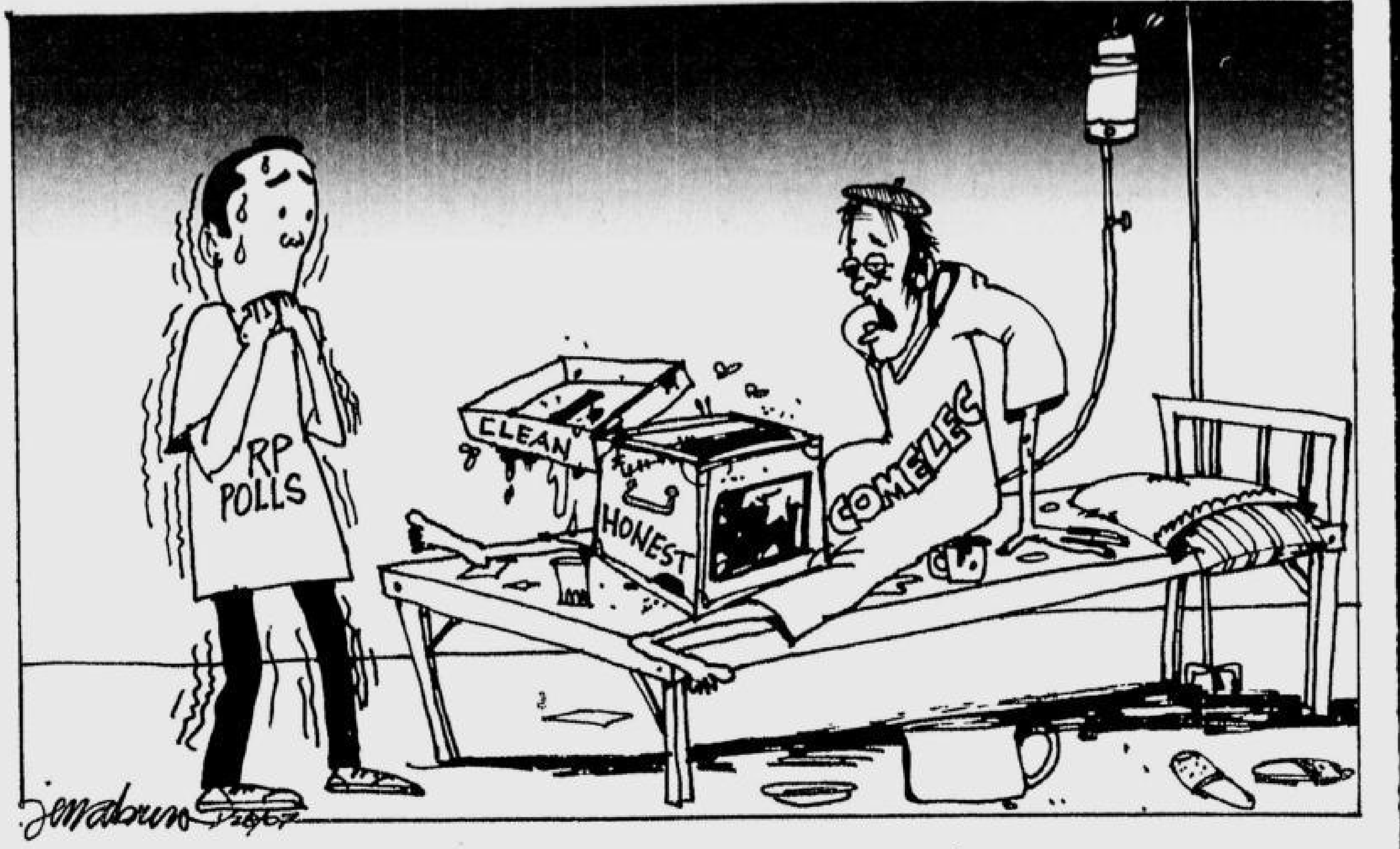


The imperative need

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE CONSTITUTION IN ITS DECLARATION of Principles and State Policies expresses grandiose aspirations for our country that, in light of their disregard by the government that is obliged to pursue them, can be regarded as nothing more than rhetorical embellishments in what is supposed to be the fundamental law of the land.

One of the principles announced in Art. II, Sec. 5 of the present Constitution says: "The maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy."

Sec. 9 of the same Article promises: "The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living and an improved quality of life for all."

And Sec. 27 contains the familiar assurance found in every political platform that: "The State shall maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption."

Where the Constitution of the Commonwealth, which served as a pattern for the present Constitution, contained only five sections in its Declaration of Principles, the 1987 charter has expanded it to all of 27 sections artificially divided into principles and policies. Of all these finicky sections, the three above quoted are the most dishonored and ignored.

The State is identified as the supreme entity charged with the attainment of the lofty purposes mentioned in these provisions. But it is the government, "through which the will of the State is formulated, expressed and realized," that should be blamed for the defeat of these grand objectives.

It is not only the present government, to be fair, but also the preceding governments since the Constitution of 1987 became effective, which must all be accountable as the actual representative of the State for its failure to enable the people to enjoy "the blessings of democracy." They are all answerable, in varying degrees, for the miserable condition of the Republic of the Philippines today.

And let us not forget the evil regime of Ferdinand Marcos, who reduced us as one of the most respected nations in Asia to the disreputable level where we wallow in today as an almost basket case in official corruption and a notorious violator of libertarian beliefs and the supremacy of human rights.

Ramon Magsaysay broke the back of communism in the Philippines, but the NPA is now as insolent as never before in despoiling the peace and order of the country. The Abu Sayyaf that began as a measly group of bandits has grown into a formidable band of terrorists disgracing us further in the international community. Even ordinary criminals operate openly in the centers of population, some led by law agents and protected by covert politicians.

The Constitution envisions a social order that will ensure the prosperity of the people but we have become a nation of servants in alien lands because there is no full employment here to release them from poverty. The better quality of life they seek is a pathetic dream. Indigent patients in government hospitals who have to buy their own medicines belie the myth of adequate social services for the underprivileged.

The government is awash in venality, particularly in Malacañang and Congress. The Garci tapes remain unsolved, the Venable contract has escaped Senate wrath, and Jocelyn Bolante is now beyond our reach. Congress still savors the pork barrel and recently attempted—but deservedly failed—to mangle the Constitution. The only redeeming light is the Supreme Court, which has outlawed several abuses of the administration to the people's relief and applause.

The present agitation for the change of the Constitution is, I think, misdirected. True, there is need to re-examine the charter to correct many of its shortcomings, including its inordinate length like a codification of trivialities. It is being plotted to replace the presidential system with the parliamentary as the proffered but ridiculous panacea for all the nation's difficulties.

What we need is not the change of our Constitution but the revision of our political attitude. The change of the government itself will not bring us an instant Utopia if it will also be run by the same officials who are in power now. They are the miscreants we should replace with upright and competent leaders who can achieve the noble purposes enshrined in the present Constitution.

The bottom line is that it is we, the people, who should change first if we are to cleanse our Augean stable of public depredators. We can do this by exercising our right to vote this May wisely, fearlessly and honestly, as at least a first step to our country's salvation. That is the imperative need.

Wanted: Prophets, now!

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

A DESPERATE WEIGHT WATCHER'S PRAYER: "Lord, if you can't make me thin, please make my friends fat. Amen."

* * *

In today's Gospel (Lk. 4, 21-30), we are told that the town mates of Jesus were amazed at His words, and they spoke highly of Him. But their hearts were also filled with envy and incredulity. "Isn't this the son of Joseph?" they asked. It was hard for them to accept that He was better than them, so they resorted to criticism, judgment and non-acceptance to bring Him down. It's an old game, but we often play the "game of equalizing" so that nobody around us goes up.

* * *

An envious person is never at peace. When somebody goes up, he feels bad. When somebody goes down, he feels good. An envious person is a very insecure person because his happiness depends on the situation of the people around him. Are you an envious person? Listen to these words from the "Desiderata": "If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain or bitter for, always, there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself."

* * *

I've met a lot of people whose only concern, it seems, is that they should be better than the rest. Pity such people because they are always threatened by anything or anyone who may dislodge them from their real or imagined pedestal. For them, life is a constant climb, an unending race. For such people, there is no rest.

* * *

Even in the spiritual life, there are people who have the holier-than-thou or the better-than-thou attitude. They think and actually believe that they have a monopoly over goodness and an express lane to heaven—and they make others feel that. Have you met some of them? Are you one of them?

* * *

There are very few prophets in high places. That's because a lot of people never make it there. Those who make it there, sooner or later, are shot down. Or perhaps, they just cease to become prophets because they subsequently focus their eyes on profits. Let us continue to ask the Lord to send more prophets to the Church in the Philippines and to the government.

* * *

A prophet is one who speaks his truth—whether it's "in season" or "out of season." Rejection is a part of a prophet's life. Quite a contrast to politicians who tell lies, manipulate the truth and coddle fellow liars. Quite a contrast, too, to politicians who use all and every means to be "accepted" by the people. May God give us prophets in the Philippine government.

* * *

Archbishop Oscar Cruz of the Diocese of Lingayen-Dagupan is one prophet who continues to proclaim the Gospel truth and values in these difficult days and times for our country. In spite of threats and criticisms, he continues his crusade for clean elections and good governance, particularly his fight against gambling. May God give us more prophets in the Church of the Philippines.

* * *

We need prophets to always remind us that we are being held hostage in our own homes by a few men and women who claim to be our leaders. If the thieves are already in the house, what do we do? What should we do?

Call the guards? They are guarding the thieves! Call the Church? I don't know what it is guarding. Whatever the situation is, it's not improving anything. The thieves are getting bolder, and the rampage goes on.

* * *

Prophets must not lose heart. They must continue to hold on to their truth and to believe that goodness will triumph in the end. They must not sell out or compromise, or be discouraged. God's delays are not God's denials. God must not be left out of the picture. It is His work. It is His picture. It is His mission. It is His vision.

* * *

In our work for truth and justice, we must remember that we are not just idealistic activists or detached contemplatives, but discerning disciples of the Lord; we should, therefore, be active missionaries. All our listening and discerning should lead us to active involvement in this world. *Ora et labora*. Pray and work.

* * *

Sr. Aurice Palma, SSpS was a person who literally went out of her way for others. At times, she "forced" her way for others, and she was sometimes criticized for that. But no one can fault her for being a dedicated and committed daughter of St. Arnold Janssen. Mission accomplished at 74, but her work and presence will live on in the hearts of the countless students, OFWs and indigenous people she served all these years.

* * *

Thirteen young men will be ordained Divine Word Missionary priests on Feb. 3, 2007, 9 a.m. by his Eminence Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales at the SVD Seminary in Tagaytay City. Of these, two will be sent to Congo, one to Madagascar, one to Mexico, one to China, two to Argentina, one to New Zealand and one to Portugal—prophets all!

* * *

"Be strong and be of good courage, fear not, nor be afraid ... for the Lord thy God, He it is that doth with thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee." (Deuteronomy) Let God be your pillar in these troubled times, text ON<space>PRAYER and send to 2948 for Globe/Sun or 3940 for Smart and receive daily prayers. God bless you, Mama Mary loves you!

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, give us prophets, and remove from our midst people who are just in for profit. Amen.

Hail our young heroes

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

TOMORROW IS THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF my triple bypass surgery at St. Luke's Medical Center. The first indication of trouble came when I tried carrying my granddaughter Christine and realized I was out of breath after just a few minutes of holding her in my arms. Then, on a trip to Boston, Penny and I were catching a tour and I had to make a 200-meter dash to the bus station. After seating myself in the bus, it seemed a bit longer than usual for me to catch my breath. This was also accompanied by a strange discomfort around my chest.

Returning home, an executive checkup at St. Luke's, followed by an angiogram administered by my cardiologist Dr. Cesar "Butch" Recto (a classmate of my son at the UP College of Medicine), revealed blockages in four arteries.

A few days later, I opted for surgery and Dr. Estanislao de Castro, head of the cardiovascular surgery division at St. Luke's, opened me up and set up bypasses around three of the four blockages.

I want to thank Butch Recto, Stan de Castro and Greg Patacsil for getting me through the last 10 years in good shape. My golf game has improved a lot and, yesterday, for the first time in my extended golfing career, I shot an 81, my best score so far.

* * *

Last September, the papers reported the death of six Marines, along with 20 wounded, in a clash with Abu Sayyaf elements in the jungles of Patikul, Sulu. They were pursuing Abu Sayyaf chief Khadaffy Janjalani and two Jemaah Islamiyah bombers, Umar Patek and Dulmatin, who are believed to be involved in the Bali bombings of 2002.

At that time, I noted that "the flag-draped coffins of the fallen Marines lying in state at the Bonifacio Naval Station were a grim reminder that in spite of all the peace talks being conducted with Muslim insurgents, there is a shooting war going on and soldiers are dying while we go about our daily lives here in Metro Manila and in other parts of the country as though everything were peaceful and normal."

Last week, the results of DNA tests carried out by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation showed that Khadaffy Janjalani was one of those slain in that particular encounter with the Marines. Samples of his remains which were buried in Patikul matched samples taken from Janjalani's brother, Hector.

The leader of the Marine recon platoon credited with getting Janjalani is a young Philippine Military Academy graduate, Class of 2005, 2nd Lt. Romulo Dimayuga. With 27 Marines under him, they fought a 200-man Abu Sayyaf force and inflicted 60 casualties on the enemy.

A few days after confirmation of Janjalani's death, the Special Forces of the Philippine Army also scored one of their biggest victories in years with the death of Abu Solaiman in an encounter last Jan. 16, also in the jungles of Sulu.

Solaiman was the brains of the Abu Sayyaf organization. He was responsible for planning the Dos Palmas kidnapping in 2001, the bombing of Superferry 14 in 2004 and other bombings in Makati, Davao and General Santos City. He represented hard-core terrorism and, thus, was the most dangerous of the Abu Sayyaf group.

This time, a product of the Officer Candidate School (OCS) in Tanay, Rizal led the Special Forces operatives against Solaiman's group. The leader of the 8th Special Forces Company, 1st Lt. Almirante Mijares, a native of Bansalan, Davao del Sur, graduated with Class 44 in 2002. He was immediately called to active duty because of his excellent performance in the officers preparatory course. He holds an AB in English from the University of Mindanao.

Only last month, Dec. 18 to be exact, he married his high school sweetheart, Ma. Richelle, also from Bansalan. After an all-too-short honeymoon, he proceeded to his Sulu assignment and soon found himself in the heat of a campaign aimed at toppling the Abu Sayyaf leadership.

In a brief interview with Mijares at Camp Aguinaldo, I kidded him about missing his new bride, which may have inspired him to get the job done as quickly as possible, so as to be reunited with her. I hope the Special Forces leadership represented by an outstanding officer, Brig. Gen. Arturo Ortiz, PMA Class of 1979, will allow him more time to make up for the brief honeymoon.

By the way, Art Ortiz, a child of the Benguet mining industry (he grew up not too far from Fort Del Pilar), is one of our few Medal for Valor holders. Art Ortiz was promoted to brigadier general only last October. This latest achievement of his men earns him another feather in his cap. Looks like we have a future AFP chief of staff in the making.

The rifleman responsible for getting Abu Solaiman in his gunsight is a young Marine corporal, Raul Suacillo from Zamboanga City. He joined the service in February 1996. He has been promoted two grades higher, to staff sergeant although according to him, "*wala pang* orders."

Mijares and Suacillo share some similarities. They both come from large families—six brothers and sisters. Both have lost their fathers and now they are the main support of their families. Both married hometown girls.

I've said this before and I'll say it again—we in Metro Manila and in other urban centers in the country tend to take for granted the efforts and sacrifices of our soldiers fighting and dying in the field. If not for them, we would have experienced more of the bombings and shootings that places like London, Madrid, Jakarta and Bali have endured during the past few years.

Include our soldiers in your prayers every now and then.

From out of the jungle

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IF ALL YOU WANT FROM A MOVIE IS ESCAPE from reality, where you can sit back, munch on popcorn and watch with detached interest, then don't watch "Apocalypto."

Watching this movie, the latest work of actor-director Mel Gibson, is exhausting. Right in the middle of the chase that is the movie's climax, I wanted to call a halt to the proceedings because, like Jaguar Paw I suppose, I was out-of-breath and tensed up like a clenched fist. "I thought I was going to have a heart attack," gasped my husband as we left the theater.

The story is told from the point-of-view of Jaguar Paw, a young husband and father who belongs to an unnamed tribe of hunter-gatherers deep in the jungle, whose happy, simple existence is disrupted, indeed, eradicated when they are set upon by a band of Mayan slave traders.

Together with the men and women who survive the attack, Jaguar Paw ventures far from the familiar jungle. Though he finally arrives at the city that is the cradle of the Mayan Empire, little does he, his fellow captives, and even his captors know that he is in fact witnessing the waning days of this once-great civilization.

But even those with little understanding of Mayan history grasp the reasons for its decline and demise. Jaguar Paw and the village folk have been conscripted mainly to serve as human sacrifices to the Mayan gods, whom the priests and royals wish to appease with daily, continuous tributes of human hearts and flesh. A plague has beset the populace, a drought has led to famine, and the relentless demand for firewood to create the limestone bricks to build the monumental temples has led to environmental degradation. Over on the horizon, ships with sails approach the shore, with Europeans aboard who will bring with their colonial appetites diseases against which the people of the Americas have no natural protection—the harbingers of pestilence and the end of a civilization.

* * *

THIS is the story told in "Apocalypto," a story told through the eyes of an innocent who knows only that he must journey back to "his" jungle, to the woman and child who wait for him, and to the way of life that had created him.

Gibson has said that he wanted to create not a documentary on the Mayan culture, though he was fascinated by it, but essentially an old-fashioned chase film.

It is the chase—with Jaguar Paw trying to outrun the band of marauders who seek revenge for the death of one of their own—that gives the movie its kinetic power. The first part plays out like a documentary, with lots of film time given to the sights and sounds that greet Jaguar Paw and the tribe folk as they leave their jungle village farther and farther behind. The second part of the film is a breathless chase that retraces the route that had been taken, tightly edited, unremittingly focused, intense in its depiction of one man's fight for his and his family's survival.

Credit for these fast-paced heart-thumping final minutes must go to, aside from Gibson, director of photography Dean Semler who employs his cameras to give us a sense of Jaguar Paw's desperate dash; film editor John Wright who gives the film its relentless pace; and composer James Horner for the percussive, driving score with ethnic flourishes.

* * *

MUCH has been made of the dialogue, which is spoken in Mayan (more specifically, the Yucatec language, the primary Mayan dialect spoken in the Yucatan peninsula today), with English subtitles. When I first heard about this, I thought this was yet another movie-making gimmick, in much the same way Gibson decided to provide dialogue in "The Passion of the Christ" in Aramaic. And yet, a few minutes into the movie, one understands the reasons for the choice of language. If the characters had been speaking English, the movie would have lost much of its impact, its ability to immerse the viewers into the world of the Mayans, and its power to convey the tribal folk's world view.

Descendants of the Mayans are said to have launched protests against the "violent and bloody" depiction of Mayan civilization in the movie. Perhaps there is more to the Mayans than human sacrifice, for they had, after all, also been accomplished astronomers, mathematicians, architects, builders and agronomists. And yet, the puzzle Gibson and his team had wanted to resolve was precisely why such an accomplished and powerful civilization ultimately descended into chaos and blood thirst. They succeed in large part, and in the process provide contemporary societies lessons on the death of civilizations.

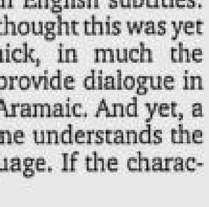
* * *

ACCORDING to the production notes, "Apocalypto" was truly multi-cultural filmmaking, starting with the search for cast members that climaxed in the choice of Rudy Youngblood, a Native American of the Comanche, Cree and Yaqui peoples, as Jaguar Paw. The physicality of the role was no hindrance to Youngblood, who is an accomplished athlete as well as a pow-wow dancer and singer.

For the rest of the cast, the filmmakers searched through most of Mexico, particularly the Yucatan, Central America, and on through Southern California and New Mexico, and even Canada, where there's a large Native American population.

Two performers, with brief but crucial roles, are particularly intriguing: Espiridion Acosta Canche, 80, who played the old village storyteller, who is Maya and an actual storyteller who speaks only his native Mayan language; and Maria Isidra Hoil, the "oracle girl" the captives encounter, who lives in a small Maya village, speaks only Mayan, and for whom acting in the film was an eye-opening, indeed, life-changing experience, since before it she had never seen a car, bus or plane, eaten rice, stayed in a hotel, or seen a floor that was not made of dirt. She had also never been to a movie before.

The future of political families



PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

THE CURRENT DEBATE ON THE PROPRIETY of so-called "political dynasties" in a democracy is quite interesting. While focused on the prospective senatorial candidacies of Alan Peter Cayetano, JV Ejercito and Aquilino Pimentel III—who all have close kin in the present Senate—the issue is bound to affect many others at different levels of the political hierarchy. The criticism of the role of kinship in Philippine politics has never been more pronounced. We can take it as a positive sign of the growing assertion of modern values in the nation's political life.

Candidates from the political families are, of course, correct in saying they cannot choose their families, that there is no law against political dynasties at the moment, and that in the end it is the voters who will decide. Yet it is one thing to recognize the reality of the Filipino family as a powerful generator of political careers. It is another to accept this as a fact of life that should not bother anyone. It does bother many Filipinos. It bothers even a few decent candidates who, even as they justify their candidacies as standing firmly on personal achievement and merit, also apologetically admit they are riding on name-recall and family identification.

Is the coupling of politics and family in our society unshakeable? It may seem so for now. But I think it is becoming increasingly difficult for members of political clans to explain why they are running by simply pointing to their family's supposed tradition of public service. Though we may be far from being a modern democracy, the values by which we seek to justify inequalities today are changing. I like to think they are no longer feudal. This is true for power as it is for wealth. The same process is slowly working its way in the realm of the economy. Many large family corporations are already realizing they must broaden their field of recruitment and hire professional managers from outside the family circle if they are to survive in the modern world economy.

The shift from inherited sinecures to earned positions will happen not because of any specific legislation banning dynasties but because of changes in the circumstances of our people. More and more of our people are better educated and richer in outlook because of travel; and their sources of information are more varied because of modern media. These are factors that create a vibrant middle class. This is happening, however, without a meaningful decline in mass poverty. This paradox is at the heart of the impatient assertion of modern political values (sometimes exploding as people power) in the face of a tenacious system of patronage that feeds on poverty and dependence.

Much has changed in our society in the last 50 years. While it is true that political clans have persisted, it is also undeniable that many old families that used to dominate the political landscape at the provincial level have lost much of their power or have vanished from politics altogether. There was a time when Ilocos politics was inconceivable without the Crisologos, Pampanga politics without the Lazatins and Nepomucenos, Zambales politics without the Barrettos, Cavite politics without the Montanos, Batangas politics without the Laurels, etc. That is no longer the case today. If a careful accounting of political families nationwide were to be undertaken, we are likely to find not an unbroken pattern of dynastic continuity but of decline.

It is not to say that no new political families have arisen, or that, given the chance, today's politicians will not try to establish their own dynasties. It's almost certain they will, but their shelf life will be much shorter. New players are emerging every election year, bringing with them the patina of public recognition earned elsewhere. Some of them may even come from the old political families. If Kris Aquino were to run for senator in the 2007 election, she would surely top the list of winners—not so much because she is an Aquino, but because she is the host of the popular TV game show "Deal or No Deal." This is the same medium that catapulted Loren Legarda and Noli de Castro, both without any political pedigree.

TV celebrities like them who have made a mark on free television will continue for some time to wield a decisive advantage in our political life. They will be sought out by parties to stand as candidates or as political endorsers. This is a reflection of the current dominance of television in the daily life of the average Filipino, a development that has been largely underwritten by overseas work. It is this centrality of television in the shaping of public consciousness that is also shifting the center of gravity of electoral campaigns from face-to-face sorties to media appearances and costly advertisements.

Are we then looking into a future political system dominated by TV hosts, actors, sports heroes, and the like? As traditional politicians lose their influence, media celebrities may be tempted to follow Erap's example and spin their popularity into a political career. But even this will end when platform-based political parties are formed and can gather enough political clout to be able to rationalize the leadership recruitment process.

Every society is unique in its development. But the trajectory of political development in the modern world is decidedly toward the formation of autonomous political systems that are not merely adjuncts of clans, churches, or corporations. There is no other way to run a modern state in an increasingly complex world environment.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Spinning and spinning

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

THESE ARE THE FACTS OF THE CONTROVERSIAL 1,216TH meeting of the University of the Philippines' Board of Regents that decided in favor of a tuition increase:

At 3:30 in the afternoon of Dec. 15, the Board of Regents arrived in Quezon Hall, the administration building. They were met by a phalanx of roughly 500 hundred protesting students, arm-in-arm, red banners waving, voices rising in chant. An advance party of vice presidents was unable to enter the building. To avoid violence, it was decided to move the meeting to Malcolm Hall, College of Law. A written notice about the change of venue was delivered to the faculty regent and student regent, both of whom were among the protesting crowd.

Student Regent Raffy Jones Sanchez sent word that he was not coming. Faculty Regent Roland Simbulan sent a written statement on the tuition proposal and requested that his motion be read by the UP president.

The board decided that a motion could not be presented in absentia. After taking note of various position papers, endorsements and reports, the board decided, unanimously, to approve president Emerlinda Roman's recommendation for an increase of tuition.

On Dec. 16, several interesting reports were released pertaining to the incident.

In a Manila Bulletin article, a joint statement, which reportedly included Student Regent Sanchez as among the signatories, was quoted as saying that "the board did not give details on the meeting and how increase proposals were discussed." The news story also reported that the board transferred to the College of Law and "did not allow UP Faculty Regent Roland Simbulan and Sanchez, both members of the board, to join the discussions."

The same broadsheet carried another story, repeating the spin that both student and faculty regents "were not allowed to join the deliberation on the approval of tuition hike."

The paper retracted the statement four days later on Dec. 20. Titled "UP clarifies tuition decision," it put an interesting spin on whose burden it is to clarify the facts of the matter.

The article also quoted Faculty Regent Simbulan, who affirmed that a letter was sent to inform him and Student Regent Sanchez about the change of venue. Simbulan, however, said that changing the meeting's venue was "an insult" because he and Sanchez were at Quezon Hall for the scheduled meeting waiting for other members of the board. As to how this is personally insulting is beyond me; neither do I see why such sensitivity to insults, imagined or otherwise, are allowed to take precedence over the imperatives of deciding on UP's future.

On television just a few days ago, UP Student Council chair Juan Paolo Alfonso, the same boy who pitched globs of mud and rotten eggs at guests in a forum on political violence, made another misleading statement. He claimed, indignantly, that the student and faculty regents, who were supposed to be sectoral representatives, did not sit in the board's meeting. Technically true, of course. What he may have forgotten to say was that they chose not to. Or, perhaps, he did, and the editors decided adding the information would make the story less explosive. I don't know.

Another matter of interest is that although the coverage of the more activist side of the university reached both broadcast and print, several events on that day were largely ignored.

In a Dec. 15 statement by the UP Law Student Government, a group of UP students with strong anti-tuition-fee-increase sentiments barged through the doors of Malcolm Hall in search of members of the UP Board of Regents. The group was headed by Sanchez and the University Student Council. "Such students verbally assaulted members of the UP Law Student Government and the UP Law community .... They were hurling accusations such as, "*Tinago n'yo sila!*" "*Niloko n'yo kami!*" "*Bakit n'yo kami pinagtataksilan?*" at the members of the UP Law community who were in sight." Temper, red paint and property damage concluded what was supposed to be UP Law's annual celebration. This was, I am told, not an isolated incident. UP Chancellor Cao was twice assaulted by students banging and pounding on his car—while he was inside.

Although I tend to believe that the opponents of tuition increase have the advantage in media manipulation—red banners and rallying students tend to make bigger news than UP administration policy—misrepresentations also exist on the other side.

Take the Socialized Tuition and Financial Assistance Program (STFAP), the strategy that groups students as to how much they should pay depending on their income. Under the old STFAP, the lowest income levels (P13,510-P116,216) are given free tuition, and are not compelled to pay the standard P300 per unit.

In the new system, those above P80,000 will have to pay P300 a unit. Although P300 may not seem much compared to Ateneo or DLSU's tuition, P300 a unit, or P12,000 a year, is an enormous chunk for a family making P6,666 a month—an amount much less than the minimum wage. Factoring in the tuition will leave them with something like P5,666 a month, and if the family has more than one child, as is the usual case, a college education in UP would be close to impossible.

However, in a column in this same paper, it was stated that only those making those incomes over P500,000 are going to feel the tuition increase. The columnist reassures the public that even those whose incomes are above P80,000 "will enjoy a tuition discount of 70 percent, meaning to say that their tuition rates will remain at P300 per unit." The reassurance was indeed reassuring—I believed it. However, these students weren't supposed to pay anything at all under the old system. Essentially, the tuition increase rockets their fees from 0 to 300 percent.

This is not to be construed as an opinion for or against increase—that will come later with the promised changes on the STFAP. This is an attempt to both clarify and to illustrate the dangers of faith in the printed—or televised—word. Joan Didion once said that the act of writing is an act of "imposing oneself upon other people, of saying listen to me, see it my way, change your mind." It is an aggressive act, and although the aggressiveness can be disguised, "there's no getting around the fact that setting words on paper is the tactic of a secret bully, an invasion, an imposition of the writer's sensibility on the reader's most private space."

That tuition fee increases will always be explosive subjects in any campus, and, in the case of UP, in the country, is no excuse for misrepresentation or carelessness. It should even be a greater incentive. Although it's true that objectivity is never absolute, I tend to believe in the ideal of objectivity in reporting facts—objectivity as an objective, if not an absolute reality. Without that attempt, it's all spin from here.

* * *

For comments, just text: PM REBEL name, age, location, message then send to 2948 for Globe/Sun and 3940 for Smart. E-mail at pat.evangelista@gmail.com

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to
jsarmiento@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**

Get ready for the May 14 polls

SYNCHRONIZED NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS FOR MORE THAN 17,000 positions are scheduled for the second Monday of May. Half the seats in the Senate and all the seats in the House of Representatives are at stake.

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Had the signature campaign for Charter change or moves in the House to convene itself into a constituent assembly succeeded, the midterm elections would have been scrapped, and the Senate abolished.

Supporters of President Macapagal-Arroyo favor a shift to a parliamentary form of government because, among other reasons, this would remove the opposition's threat of impeaching her under the present bicameral presidential system.

The elections can be seen either as a vote of confidence for Ms Arroyo, who has survived attempts at impeaching her over the past two years, or a vote of confidence for those who oppose her.

Like in past electoral exercises, the votes cast on May 14 will be counted manually and slowly because the Commission on Elections has neither the time nor the money to automate the polls.

Positions at stake

Senator	Member, House of Représentatives	
12	212*	53*
	District	Party-list

Governor	Vice Governor	Member
79	79	758*
		Sangguniang Panlalawigan

City Mayor	City Vice Mayor	Member
117**	117	1,276*
		Sangguniang Panlungsod

Town Mayor	Town Vice Mayor	Member
1,506**	1,506	12,016*
		Sangguniang Bayan

* 2004 FIGURES ** BASED ON NSCB FIGURES AS OF SEPT. 2006

In the 2004 elections, 48 persons ran for senator; 649 for representative, 284 for governor, 227 for vice governor, 2,107 for provincial board member, 4,256 for mayor, 4,306 for vice mayor and 38,274 for councilor.

Spending limits

THE GOVERNMENT has imposed certain limitations on candidates to ensure equal campaign opportunities.

The spending limit for someone running in the 2007 elections is P3 for each voter registered in the constituency where he or she filed a certificate of candidacy. Political parties and independent candidates can spend P5 for every such voter.

In the case of presidential elections, those running for president or vice president can spend P10 per voter.

As of April 2006, there were 43,522,634 registered voters in the country. This means that someone running for senator (who is affiliated with a political party) can spend as much as P130,567,902 for his or her campaign. An independent senatorial candidate can shell out at most P217,613,170.

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TABLES COMPILED BY CYRIL L. BONABENTE, INQUIRER RESEARCH

Party-list

Starting 1998, Filipino voters have elected into Congress representatives of national, regional and sectoral parties under the party-list system.

The system, established by Republic Act No. 7941 (the Party-List System Act of 1995), enables Filipinos belonging to marginalized sectors to take part in legislation.

Party-list representatives should constitute 20 percent of the total number of members of the House of Representatives. The number of seats given to each winning party depends on the number of votes cast for it. Each party is entitled to not more than three seats.

Absentee voting

Philippine elections saw a first in 2004, when qualified Filipino citizens abroad were able to vote for president, vice president, senators and party-list representatives, by virtue of Republic Act No. 9189 or the Overseas Absentee Voting Act of 2003.

However, only some four percent or 300,000 of the 7.5 million Filipinos abroad enlisted during the two-month registration period.

The absentee voting option is also available for members of the armed forces, police and government service, who have been assigned temporarily to places where they are not registered voters to perform election duties. However, they are allowed to vote only for president, vice president, senators and party-list representatives.

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- Intimidation
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Despite the 1987 Constitution's prohibition against political dynasties, government seats are still being passed among family members. According to the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism's "The Rule Makers: How the Wealthy and Well-born Dominate Congress (2004)," 40 percent of the representatives in post-Marcos congresses are relatives of previous legislators.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

Voter turnout, precincts, counting machines

43.5 million
Registered voters
(as of 2004)

77%
Voter turnout
(May 2004)

295,552
Total number of precincts
(2004)

300,000
Registered absentee voters abroad
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P1.3 billion
Mega Pacific automation deal
junked by the Supreme Court three years ago

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Number of unused Mega Pacific counting machines

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GRAPHICS AND PAGE DESIGN BY ERNIE SAMBO

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GRAPHICS AND PAGE DESIGN BY ERNIE SAMBO

INQUIRER Mindanao

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AFP builds space for peace in South

By Edwin O. Fernandez
Camp Siongco, Maguindanao

IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENT initiatives, the Army's 6th Infantry Division and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao have joined hands and built "bridges" to help fast-track the peace process in Mindanao.

On Monday, the Army Peace Center was inaugurated in Camp Siongco, Maguindanao, where Muslim and Christian infantrymen can sit down and understand each other's culture and foster bonds

KAMPILAH LOUNGE

SOLDIERS can discuss peace in this newly built facility inside the headquarters of the Army's 6th Infantry Division in Maguindanao.
EDWIN FERNANDE

Among these bridges is what the military itself describes as "space for peace," an edifice where soldiers of different faiths can hold dialogues to complement and strengthen the peace efforts.

On Monday, the Army Peace Center was inaugurated in Camp Siongco, Maguindanao, where Muslim and Christian infantrymen can sit down and understand each other's culture and foster bonds.

The 400-square-meter, P2-million building was jointly built for the division by ARMM Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan and the 54th Engineering Brigade. It was funded out of the region's infrastructure grant.

Ampatuan, division chief Maj. Gen. Nehemias Pajarito, and Eastern Mindanao Command chief Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Obaniana attended the ceremony.

Governor's offer

The governor offered the facility to Obaniana last year when the latter was still the division commander.

Obaniana said the building would be a venue for fellowship of peace advocates, both in the military and private sectors, who are involved in peace-building activities in areas where the Moro Islamic Liberation Front is active.

More than 800 Muslim infantrymen belong to the 6th ID. Some are products of integration under the government-Moro National Liberation Front peace accord and others underwent regular recruitment.

Lt. Col. Julieto Ando, division spokesperson, said the Army unit had shifted its paradigm. "We no longer prepare for war. We keep ourselves busy in peace building. We, too, are stakeholders of the Mindanao peace process," he said.

According to Ando, one purpose of the Army Peace Center is to provide a place to discuss the five pillars of the government and MILF peace process—the coordinating committee on the cessation of hostilities, the civilian local monitoring team, the Ad Hoc Joint Action Group, Malaysian-led International Monitoring Team, and the individual soldier's role in peace building.

Advocacy

"We cannot be effective in advocating peace if peace is absent in ourselves," he said. "With this, soldiers can be effective instruments for peace advocacy in their fields of assignments."

Eid Kabalu, speaking for the MILF, lauded Ampatuan and the military's efforts. "It would surely help foster friendship and understanding between and among Muslim and Christian soldiers in the military establishment," he said, adding:

"I hope the same will be made in other military units, especially those in the forefront or those facing closely the rebel troops on the ground."

First Lt. Tato Carpentil, a Muslim soldier, was elated with the project.

"It will improve relationships between Muslim and Christian soldiers and we will be equipped with the needed information to become bridge-builders," he said. "It will serve as a bridge that would connect different faiths and cultures."

Fresh from schooling, both Carpentil and 1Lt. Alejandro C. Tanudtanud are newly assigned to the division.

Muslim-Christian

Tanudtanud, a Christian who hails from North Cotabato, said the project would help develop Muslim-Christian relationships.

"Our division commander is a peacebuilder, so we will toe the line," he said.

With the ceasefire observed by the government and the MILF, the military has silenced its firepower and ventured into humanitarian programs, some of which are being implemented by its Sallam (peace) Unit, composed of Muslim soldiers and Islamic preachers.

Ampatuan said his administration was determined to support peace initiatives that would develop the cordiality of the GRP-MILF peace talks. "This is my humble contribution to the tedious process of searching for peace in our homeland," he said.

"I want to leave a legacy of being the only ARMM chief executive who went all-out to achieve that long-desired peace in our land."

War is wrong

Saying war is wrong, the regional governor said he had witnessed the cruelties of war since the 1970s and that now was the right time to correct it. "I don't want the next generation of Muslims to experience what we have gone through, thus my desire for genuine peace."

Ando, a veteran in the military's anti-insurgency campaign in Mindanao and witness to the sufferings of children and women in conflict areas, said he was certain that the newly established facility would showcase the division's peace initiatives and "build bridges" between two or more cultures.

"Gone are the days when we focus more on fighting our enemies. Gone are the days when a soldier simply prepares himself for war what keeps us busy is our commander's directive of making a difference in the government's peace initiatives in Mindanao," he said.

Ceasefire

Since 2003, Army and Moro rebel clashes have been reduced to as much as 95 percent," Ando said. "Mainly, this is due to the ceasefire accord and we are happy to be part of it."

Soldiers have ventured into medical and dental outreach activities, in partnership with the Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines of the United States, benefiting some 12,300 people.

The division has also distributed books, bags and school supplies to Moro schoolchildren in once war-torn and depressed communities.

"All our actions now are anchored on the primacy of the peace negotiations," Ando said. "Any military action should complement and not hamper the search for peace in Mindanao as directed by our higher headquarters."

THE LAST JANJALANI INTERVIEW

Muslim scholars say Christian thinkers had better appreciation of Prophet's option

By Nash B. Maulana
Cotabato City

THE COUNTRY'S LEADING Muslim scholars have reacted sharply to the transcript of an old interview with slain bandit leader Khaddafy Janjalani, saying it is unlikely for any Muslim to attribute kidnappings to the Prophet Muhammad.

At the forefront of reactions from various sources is Prof. Taha Basman, an old friend of Janjalani's interviewer, and an acknowledged Filipino Muslim linguist.

The transcript of Janjalani's interview says he attributed kidnappings to the Prophet Muhammad who, he said, ordered the caravan of Abu Sufian (a governor of the old Hijaz, Arabia) kidnapped.

Basman said the view could be "a product of deduction" from one's own understanding that "if killing was allowed, then why not kidnapping?"

Mindanao State University Prof. Moner Bajunaid likened Janjalani's views with "the enemy from within—the danger of little knowledge in the words of the late Dr. (Cesar Adib) Majul."

Majul was the first dean of the University of the Philippines' Institute of Islamic Studies.

Context

Basman clarified that the context of the story was that Sufian and his caravan ambushed the Prophet Muhammad and his companions in the middle of the desert at about year 622, when Sufian said: "I will give Muhammad a lesson he will never forget."

Basman said that during the sword engagement between the two groups, Abu Sufian (after whose name another bandit group today is named), was killed.

A revelation (The Spoils of War, a chapter of the Koran) came to the Prophet Muhammad, which says: "The spoils of war are at God's and the prophet's disposal." And it was then that the prophet ordered his companions to place the properties and the prisoners of war (POWs) under the custody of the Muslim government based in Medina in Saudi Arabia, Basman said of the story on Abu Sufian.

Basman said the custody of POWs and spoils of war was guided by Prophet Muhammad's declaration that says: "A Muslim is he from whose tongue and hands, other Muslims are safe; and a *Mu'min*, [a true believer] is he in whose hands all of humankind has sanctuary for life and property."

Special edicts

Bajunaid, who speaks Arabic as his mother tongue, said under the Medina administration of the prophet, special edicts for Abu Sufian's people and the like were promulgated, an option that "can also be taken from the Western concept of '*parens patria*' or the government as the parent of the nation or guardian of the people.

"If that (Janjalani's) is the Muslim view today, then Christian thinkers had [a] better appreciation of the [prophet's] option, because the death of Abu Sufian rendered his people orphans. There was no better alternative than taking care of the orphans, the people ruined by wars, and looking after their welfare. Most certainly, that is worlds apart from kidnapping for ransom," Bajunaid said.

He was quoting the British playwright George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950), who said in "The Genuine Islam" (Vol. I, No. 81936): "I have studied the man (Muhammad)—and in my opinion [he is] far from being anti-Christ. He must be called the savior of humanity."

The Muslim authorities also quoted the following from French historian De Lacy O'Leary's book "Islam at the Crossroads:" "History makes it clear that the legend of fanatical Muslims sweeping through the world and forcing Islam at the point of the sword upon conquered races is one of the most fanatically absurd myths that historians have ever repeated."

Muslim norms

"Look at this as the Muslim norms and anything otherwise becomes [views] unlikely of a Muslim, especially those who assume authority in Islam," said Ustadz Abdulwahab Tunngal, the *mufti* of Basilan, Janjalani's paternal home province.

"The language of the *Qur'an* (Koran) is so difficult even [for] the Arabs themselves to learn by heart. You can't learn it only from some kind of special sessions," Bajunaid said.

He said he learned that the slain terror leader had some special clandestine classes on the Koran in an Islamic school in Central Mindanao when he assumed the Abu Sayyaf leadership in 2000.

Basman also credited "fairer" views held by Christian thinkers on the prophet, including those of Thomas Carlyle ("Heroes and Hero-Worship" lecture series) and Michael Hart ("The 100 Most Influential Persons in History").

Basman said he had "full confidence" that his friend Prof. Octavio Dinampo, who conducted the interview, knew "the real (Abu Sufian) story, as well."

ABU SAYYAF leader Khadafy Janjalani in Jolo during the Sipadan hostage crisis on July 17, 2000.
AFP/RAFFY TIMA

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Comelec wary of Red role in polls

By Romy Amarado
Inquirer Visayas

DUMAGUETE CITY—THE COMMISSION ON Elections and the Philippine National Police are preparing what officials described as a battle plan to stop communist rebels from influencing the outcome of elections for local officials in May.

Manuel Advincula, provincial Comelec supervisor, said the election body received intelligence reports from the PNP saying that communist guerrillas were preparing to support candidates for local elections.

Advincula could not elaborate on the reports, but the guerrillas usually provide security to candidates sympathetic to them or harass their candidate-sympathizers' rivals who are actively against the Communist Party of the Philippines or its armed component, the New People's Army.

Advincula said there are at least two municipalities in the province where communist guerrillas were likely to support candidates that are either leftists or sympathetic to the Left.

Advincula said the NPA was known in the past to scare voters into either voting for the guerrillas' chosen candidates or against candidates who are considered the guerrillas' enemies.

He said should the NPA take an active role in the campaign of their chosen candidates, it could lead to clashes between the guerrillas and government soldiers. This, he said, would disrupt the elections and put voters at risk.

He also said the intelligence report also raised the possibility of the guerrillas raising funds by collecting campaign fees from candidates in areas that the guerrillas control.

Advincula said the Comelec is drawing up a plan with the PNP to prevent this.

He said the Comelec could seek the help of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to deal with guerrillas who are involved in the campaign of their chosen candidates.

Although the Comelec now prohibits members of the AFP from direct participation in the conduct of the elections, Advincula said government soldiers may be tapped to prevent guerrillas from influencing the elections' outcome.

In Negros Oriental, Advincula said at least three cities and a municipality were likely to be placed in the Comelec's watch list because of violence in previous elections.

He said elections in the past in the cities of Canlaon, Bais and Tanjay and the town of Vallahermoso were intensely contested and were marred by violence.

He said in 2001, then Canlaon mayoralty candidate Jose Cardenas and five of his companions were killed in an ambush in Barangay Budlasan, Canlaon City, while on their way home from a political rally in a neighboring village.

Gloria allies become rivals in Pangasinan political race

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN—IF "Team Unity" is shaping up in the senatorial race, the administration coalition in Pangasinan is heading for a split, with the Nationalist People's Coalition and Kabalikat ng Mamamayang Pilipino (Kampi) on one side and Lakas-CMD on the other.

This scenario emerged after leaders of the NPC and Kampi here announced last week that they were fielding Pangasinan Rep. Amado Espino Jr. of the second district as the NPC-Kampi's official candidate for governor in the May 14 elections.

Lakas-CMD leaders, however, were choosing between Vice Gov. Oscar Lambino and Dr. Jamie Eloise Agbayani, wife of outgoing Gov. Victor Agbayani, as the official gubernatorial candidate of the party.

"Congressman Espino has been drafted as our party's standard-bearer for governor this coming May polls," said businessman Rosendo So, regional coordinator of the NPC-Kampi.

So said the decision was reached after a monthlong consultation with political leaders in Pangasinan, including Representatives Conrado Estrella III (sixth district), Mark Cojuangco (fifth district), Generoso Tulagan (third district) and Arthur Celeste (first district).

All five representatives belong to the NPC-Kampi. Only Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., who represents the province's fourth district, belongs to Lakas-CMD.

"We hope that in the coalition, *hangga't puwede, huwag namang magbubungguan ang* Lakas *at* Kampi (as much as possible, we don't want candidates from Lakas and Kampi to face each other)," said Agbayani, who on Friday swore in new Lakas-CMD members from western Pangasinan.

Among the new Lakas members are retired Army Lt. Gen. Alberto Braganza, retired Rear Adm. Elpidio Padama and Supt. Paul Tucay.

Braganza, a native of Mabini town, said he is running against Celeste in the first congressional district race. *Gabriel Cardinoza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

FACE OF MAIMBUNG

JULIE ALIPALA/INQUIRER MINDANAO

A high school student takes a rest in a queue of children waiting to welcome top US officials who came to visit Maimbung, Sulu to inspect their government's projects in the Muslim-dominated town.

Camarines Sur polls pit father vs son

NAGA CITY—POLITICS MAKES strange bedfellows, so they say, but it also makes unlikely rivals out of a father and son as the Lakas-Christian, Muslim Democrats (CMD) and the Kabalikat ng Mamamayang Pilipino (Kampi) in Camarines Sur parted ways as local political forces realign.

The Villafuertes, the most dominant political figures in Camarines Sur, are fighting each other.

Gov. Luis Raymund (LRay) F. Villafuerte gathers on the other side of the political divide of his father, Rep. Luis R. Villafuerte, the Kampi national president, a lineup of local candidates under the Lakas-CMD.

The younger Villafuerte has been sworn in by Speaker Jose de Venecia as the Lakas-CMD chair in Camarines Sur.

Representing the second district of Camarines Sur, the congressman has sealed alliances with two other district representatives, former legislator and now Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. in the first district and Rep. Felix Alfelor Jr. in the fourth district.

Except for Rep. Arnulfo Fuentebella, of the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC) whose bailiwick is the third district, the elder Villafuerte formed his separate lineup of local candidates to support as he sealed alliances with fellow district representatives of Camarines Sur.

Camarines Sur is the biggest province in Bicol, composed of 37 local government units and four congressional districts with more than 700,000 voters.

With a 15-year political career as governor of Camarines Sur up in his sleeves, the elder Villafuerte could count on political forces down to the village level in the 35 towns and two cities in the province.

The younger Villafuerte treaded a political career under the tutelage of his father until he was elected into office in 2004.

Serving his 29th month of his first term in office, the governor has been able to establish his own influence and leadership over a significant number of incumbent elective local officials in most of the towns in the province, the area of contention between the two Villafuertes.

Before entering politics, both the governor and the congressman made remarkable performances in the field of business.

The younger Villafuerte is an entrepreneur who built a billion-peso enterprise from a P50,000-capital while the elder Villafuerte earned distinctions for his achievements in banking, financial market and international investment in the 1970s.

The two Villafuertes were recipients of Ten Outstanding Young Men of the Philippines awards.

The elder Villafuerte is the longest reigning political patron in the province, spanning five presidents and enduring the combined political challenges of the Rocos, the Andayas, the Alfelors and the Fuentebellas, the political clans in Camarines Sur. *Juan Escandor Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Cops still clueless on murder of Samar town mayor

By Ven Labro
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—POLICE HAVE no suspect yet in the recent killing of the mayor of Daram, Samar.

Chief Supt. Eliseo dela Paz, police regional director for Eastern Visayas, said his men were following up all leads and were coordinating with barangay officials and residents who could shed light on the killing of Mayor Benito Astorga in the island barangay of Birawan in Daram town.

"We cannot categorically state that (the killing) was politically motivated because we have not arrested anyone. We are looking into all angles that would possibly be the motive of the killer of the mayor," he added.

The police were also looking into reports that the killer, or killers, might still be in Birawan village, according to Dela Paz.

Senior. Supt. Asdali Abah, Samar police director, told reporters the investigation was ongoing.

Abah said the police are looking into politics as among the angles since some villagers had expressed belief that the killing was politically motivated.

Astorga was fatally shot around 2 a.m. on Jan. 25 while attending a village dance held in celebration of the annual fiesta of Birawan.

He suffered several gunshot wounds and died before reaching a hospital in Tacloban City.

Astorga, who was on his second term, was said to be running for reelection this year. His vice mayor, Bartolome Figueroa, was reportedly also interested to run for mayor.

Dela Paz said that despite the killing of the mayor, and, recently, the barangay chair of Calapi, Motiong, Samar, he could not say that the May elections in Samar would be violent.

Security measures in Eastern Visayas for the May elections were laid out in a closed-door conference here Friday. It was attended by officials of the Commission on Elections, Philippine National Police and Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Feud over control of Panagbenga threatens its staging

DANCERS add color to the Panagbenga Festival of Baguio City in this picture taken in February 2005, when the annual flower fest was not yet embroiled in its current controversy. INQUIRER FILE PHOTO

BAGUIO CITY—BUSINESSMEN fighting for control of this year's Baguio Flower Festival have threatened to disrupt its 11th staging next month, prompting acting Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. to declare that the city was ready to take over the event.

Businessmen are contesting festival rules drawn up by a group of hotel and restaurant owners that will regulate business opportunities arising from the February festival.

One business group has threatened to go to court unless its demands were met. The other group has warned that it would abandon the event if the protesting businessmen got their way.

Bautista told reporters on Thursday that the city government was "prepared to run the festival under a worst case scenario if the businessmen refuse to settle their differences this week."

The 10th Panagbenga Festival was in a similar predicament last year because feuding businessmen, who supported rival politicians, ended up running two independent festivals simultaneously in February.

The city government had distanced itself from Panagbenga, the festival's Kankanaey name which means blossoming, to avoid coloring the annual tourist-drawing attraction with politics in this election year, Bautista said.

A city council resolution and an administrative order promise only to support the decisions of the Baguio Flower Festival Foundation Inc. (BFFFI), which officially has control of the event.

But lawyer Damaso Bangaoet Jr., BFFFI president and the event's founder, commissioned the Hotel and Restaurant Association of Baguio (HRAB) to handle some of the festival activities.

HRAB issued guidelines which control the enterprises that are allowed to operate in downtown Baguio during the festival.

It also prohibited Session Road businesses and local peddlers from extending their operations to the sidewalks to give more space for pedestrians.

The city did not anticipate a business war to spring out of the HRAB guidelines, Bautista said.

Business operators on Session Road in downtown Baguio threatened to go to court to stop HRAB from executing the guidelines, saying they were not consulted.

They also demanded the right to operate on the sidewalks "just as we have been able to do for the last 10 Panagbenga festivals."

The city council was also flooded with petitions from competing trade fair organizers which are fighting for choice spots at Burnham Park.

It is money that has fueled the feud, Bautista said, adding that the stalemate between HRAB and the downtown businessmen was delaying preparations for the February festival.

The city government offered to broker a settlement last week, but business groups would not compromise.

Councilor Antonio Tabora said the businessmen's feud is concentrated around the program called "Session Road in Bloom" because this was where the festival traditionally profits. It is the period when organizers close Session Road to motorists for a week so they can lease the road stretch to businesses.

Bautista said he was now reviewing the BFFFI's reliance on local businessmen to run the annual festival, and may consider turning to other sectors of the community for future Panagbenga activities.

Introduced in 1996 as a tourist-drawing activity by administrators of Camp John Hay, Panagbenga has earned the city roughly P100 million in revenues from tourists each February. *Vincent Cabreza with a report from Sweden Bognalbal, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

RP, Vietnam differ on Burma's road to democracy

DAVOS, SWITZERLAND—VIETNAM and the Philippines differ on how firmly to coax Burma (Myanmar) toward democracy, reflecting potential problems ahead for the planned common market and free trade zone that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations is bent on forming.

In a major break with its consensus-based past, the 10-country Asean in its annual leaders' summit in Cebu earlier this month agreed to discuss a plan for a more cohesive organization able to sanction—or even expel— members that do not follow its rules.

They agreed to draw up a joint charter to provide the institutional framework for an Asean Community and propose the addition of sanctions.

But differences on what constitutes interference into the internal affairs of other members cropped up at the World Economic Forum in this Swiss ski resort during a panel discussion on "Asean's 40 years—A New Future" on Friday.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who spoke in the panel that included Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, the prime minister of Malaysia, and Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, brought up a subject that Asean has tended to skirt around in the past.

"We are increasingly vocal about wanting Burma to speed up its roadmap to democracy and to release Aung San Suu Kyi," said Ms Arroyo, referring to the pro-democracy leader under house arrest in her home country.

The proposed addition of possible sanctions or expulsion from Asean is likely to be a hard one to accept for the ruling military junta in Burma (Myanmar).

While not directly contradicting the Philippine President, Nguyen raised the issue some Asean members feel uncomfortable about—how far the organization can go in disciplining members without meddling in domestic issues.

"The new decision-making mechanism ... should not counter the fundamental principles" the organization was built on, said the Vietnamese premier.

Asean's success over the past 40 years was based in part to the "upholding of the principles of nonintervention, consensus and mutual respect," he said.

"This should be upheld," said Nguyen.

Asean groups the Philippines, Malaysia, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore, Burma, Brunei and Indonesia. *AP*

Abu kidnap chief killed on hostage Gracia's birthday

From page A1

called. He had just met with the President (George W. Bush) and they talked about the news about Sulaiman and agreed that it was a great victory in the war against terror. A guy from the State Department, the assistant secretary of state for the Asia region or something like that, called. And I gave lots of interviews.

"So, I had a busy birthday. Didn't have time to sit around and feel sorry for myself that I'm almost 50."

'Most dangerous' Abu

Burnham also explained to her friends how she felt about Sulaiman's death:

"I thought it was interesting that Sulaiman died on my birthday. Not that you would want the death of a terrorist to be your birthday present—but that's kind of how I felt. Always, before, when I heard about yet another death, I would think, 'Oh no! Another guy's day of grace is over!'

"But not with Sulaiman. When I heard the news, I felt a great rush of relief."

Burnham said she considered Sulaiman "the most dangerous of the Abu Sayyaf" members she had met.

"He was the mastermind of the raid on Dos Palmas [resort]," she said.

Burnham said Sulaiman was filled with hate for the West.

"Sulaiman's dream in life was to get to the US and 'wreak some havoc,' in his words. I told the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) that as soon as I got out. So, they have had guys working on 'getting him' in the Philippines for these four years. Their hard work has paid off," she wrote.

Missionaries

For 17 years, Gracia Burnham and her husband Martin served with the New Tribes Mission in the Philippines, where Martin was a jungle pilot delivering mail, supplies and encouragement to other missionaries and transporting sick and injured patients to medical facilities.

According to her biography in The Martin & Gracia Burnham Foundation website, Gracia served in various roles supporting the aviation program and home-schooled their three children, who were all born in the Philippines.

The Burnhams were celebrating their 18th wedding anniversary at the Dos Palmas when they were kidnapped along with others at the resort on May 27, 2001.

Their abductors, members of the Abu Sayyaf, took them to Basilan island.

In the ensuing months some of the hostages were killed, but most were set free. From November 2001, only the Burnhams and one other hostage, Ediborah Yap, a nurse, remained in captivity.

As captives, they were witness to frequent gun battles and coldhearted murder, and experienced near-starvation, constant exhaustion as well as intense soul-searching about a God who sometimes seemed to have forgotten them, Gracia's biography states.

On June 7, 2002, in a firefight between Philippine troops and the Abu Sayyaf, Martin Burnham and Yap were killed. Gracia was wounded, but was rescued.

She was flown to the United States days later.

Life in Kansas

Since Gracia Burnham returned to the United States, she has authored two books, "In The Presence Of My Enemies" and "To Fly Again."

She and her children—Jeff, Mindy and Zach—live in Rose Hill, Kansas, "in a beautiful, massive house built for us by the community."

"This is small-town America at its best—wonderful folks, these Kansans," Burnham said.

Because of her unique experience, Burnham is a popular speaker in churches and schools and in various conferences.

Jeff is working on fulfilling licensing requirements for pilots but is also a pilot instructor at the Liberty University's Aviation Department. He recently got married to Sarah Neu, another New Tribes Mission kid, his mother said.

Mindy is a junior student at Rose Hill High School and Zach is a sophomore.

"They are involved in music, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and their church youth ministry. They keep life hopping for me—I'm so thankful for them," Burnham said.

Couple of visits

By her own account, Burnham has twice visited the Philippines since her rescue.

"I've made a couple of trips back already. In August 2004, I made a trip back there when I was asked to testify. On another occasion, my kids and I snuck back into the country without telling anyone so we could visit their beloved homeland again without a lot of media attention. We love the Philippines with all our hearts," she wrote in her website.

She said she had started The Martin & Gracia Burnham Foundation to collect funds and resources for missionary work.

The funds are used to address the need for more aircraft and pilots to augment the role of missionary aviation around the world.

The foundation is also devoted to supporting specific needs of missionaries who work in tribal areas, finding ways to show Christ's love specifically to the Muslim community, and coming to the aid of those who are "in chains" or imprisoned for their Christian faith by supporting the persecuted church, Burnham said.

OUT OF THE JUNGLE: Former American hostage Gracia Burnham

INQUIRER PHOTO

Palace poachers baiting Loren...

From page A1

indicated she was not biting and would stay on with the opposition.

The prospects of the administration slate being dominated by turncoats has irked steadfast administration allies. They have called for a caucus of the three main pillars of the ruling coalition—Lakas-CMD, Kampi, and Nationalist People's Coalition—to settle their final senatorial lineup for the May polls.

The official said that while both Legarda and Coseteng had been coy about their political plans, neither had shut the door to joining the administration.

Resistance strong

"In her latest public pronouncements, you'll notice that Loren has been (ambivalent) about which party she'll run under," said the official.

But the official also conceded that resistance among some administration people to taking in Legarda was strong in the face of her continued efforts to question the victory of Vice President Noli de Castro in the 2004 polls.

In Coseteng's case, the official claimed the former senator was training her sights on running as an independent or possibly with the administration.

Although Coseteng was an ally of ousted President Joseph Estrada during the 2001 impeachment trial, the official noted that she had not been as vocal a critic of the administration as the other opposition stalwarts, Legarda among them.

Coseteng is also a member of the NPC, which is part of the ruling coalition.

Another key Arroyo administration official, who refused to be identified, confirmed there had been behind-the-scenes discussions with Legarda and Coseteng, along with other comebacking opposition senators—Vicente Sotto III and Tessie Aquino-Oreta.

Invited by all

"I'm not going to join the administration because I am aligned with the opposition. But all political parties are inviting me to join their senatorial slates through intermediaries or various feelers," she said.

Legarda said she would make an announcement in two weeks on whether to pursue her election protest before the Presidential Electoral Tribunal, or file her candidacy for senator.

Asked if she would join the administration's "Team Unity" if drafted, Legarda said that would be presumptuous of her because she had not been invited to join.

"The concept of Team Unity is actually good. I respect those creating Team Unity but it does not mean that the opposition is Team Disunity. Unity is always good as long as it is motivated by public, not personal interest," she said.

The same official described the four as "full of political ambition but sorely lacking in the means to fulfill their goal."

Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs Gabriel Claudio, the designated spokesperson on political issues affecting the Palace, did not respond to INQUIRER phone calls or text messages.

What happened to loyalty?

A day after revealing the probable frontliners in the administration slate, Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor refused to comment on talks with Legarda and Coseteng.

Defensor's list includes himself, Senators Joker Arroyo and Ralph Recto; Sotto and Oreta, and his fellow young turks in Congress, Tarlac Rep. Gilbert Teodoro and Bukidnon Rep. Miguel Zubiri.

Eastern Samar Gov. Benjamin Evardone, a recently inducted member of Lakas, said there were "widespread misgivings" among governors and mayors over the decision of coalition leaders to include opposition members in the administration slate.

"We should give premium to loyalty. We will request the President to present first to the local government officials the lineup before endorsing it," he said.

Evardone cited the key role which local government officials played in helping President Arroyo survive her most serious political crisis in 2004.

'Constructive oppositionist'

Interviewed by the INQUIRER, Legarda indicated she had no plans of switching sides.

"While I am politically independent with no political party, I will always be a constructive oppositionist, one who is ready to build, not to destroy the country," Legarda said.

Legarda, who has topped all surveys of probable senatorial winners, stressed that she had been with the opposition since the start of her political career.

She said the Feb. 5 PET hearing was crucial because De Castro was scheduled to present evidence supposedly rebutting her allegations that she was cheated of victory in the 2004 polls.

Wednesday Group

Recto said members of the so-called Wednesday Group in the Senate to which he and Senator Arroyo belong, had agreed to stay together.

Other members of the group are Senate President Manny Villar and Majority Leader Sen. Francis Pangilinan, along with De Castro.

Asked if he would join the administration ticket if all the other senators of the Wednesday Group were taken in, Recto said: "Yes."

"I've no problem with it (Team Unity) ... What the country needs is unity and moderation, not extremes. It's good for the Senate if we continue to stay together," he said.

But he stressed that the Wednesday Group "is 'one for all, all for one'... We all share the same beliefs. We don't separate from each other."

He said those behind the administration's Team Unity would have to take all four of them in the group, if they wanted to share their ideals.

Real Third Force

Recto said the Wednesday Group would meet on Wednesday to decide on their next move.

"This is the real Third Force," he said.

Recto said Arroyo was running for reelection and only a few people were presuming he was not.

Villar and Pangilinan agreed with Recto.

"*Walang tatanggalin sa* reelectionist member of the Wednesday Group (No reelectionist member should be dropped)," Villar said.

He added that the Third Force might end up fielding Wednesday Group members, along with other reelectionist senators and some of those whose names had always appeared in the top 14 of senatorial surveys.

"The situation today is very fluid. There are various alignments of forces going on," said Villar.

Senate independence

Pangilinan said their group was still pushing for a common ticket of reelectionist senators, together with those committed to ensuring that the Senate as an institution remains independent.

Pangilinan said the track record of the reelectionist senators could not be doubted.

"We have collectively stood for an independent and vigilant Senate acting as a check on the excesses of the executive branches. An independent Senate is essential to a healthy and robust democracy," he said.

Safeguard
24 ORAS LUSOG-BUSOG PROMO with Jollibee

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Brgy. Commonwealth,
Quezon City

3. **Rosita B. Lunas**
20 Tupas St.
D' Haw, Navotas

4. **Rosamarie Baraquiel**
22 Illinois St.
Northeast Greenhills, San Juan

5. **Elizabeth C. Trina**
Blk. 14 Lot 30 Phase II
Western Bicutan, Taguig
E.P. Housing

6. **Angelina C. Escobar**
2375 Gen. Alejandrina St.
Bangkal, Makati City

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Gravel Pit Road Group 2
Area B, Brgy. Payatas, Q.C.

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Dela Costa Homes
Barangka, Marikina City

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Brgy 2 Calauag, Quezon

2. **Nenita C. Baisa**
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Addas 4A Mambog
Bacoor, Cavite

3. **Chona E. Calabia**
Brgy. Benito, Lopez, Quezon

4. **Nicole Rose D.G. Soliven**
134 Block 2
San Roque, Tarlac City

VISMIN

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Buenavista, Guimaras

2. **Jackie Lou R. Alingig**
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Cagayan de Oro City

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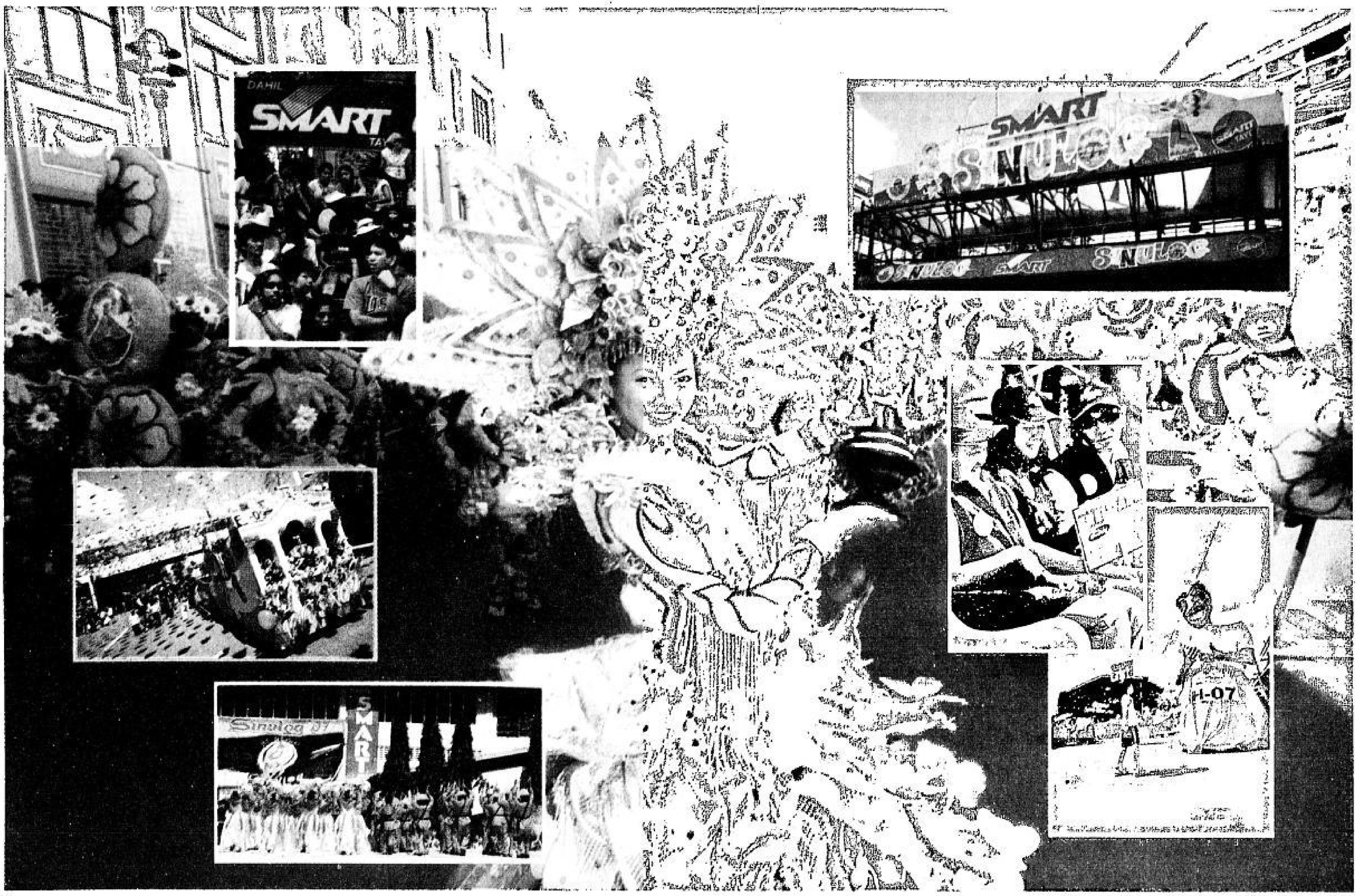
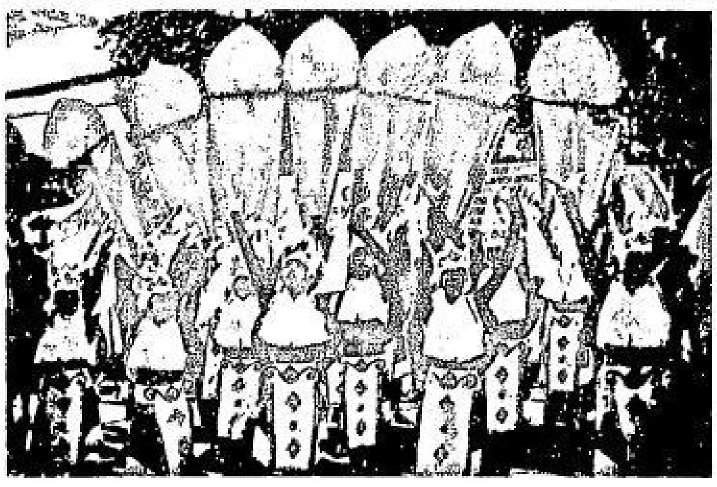
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3479 Series of 2006 • Promo period: Dec. 31, 2006 • Redemption period until March 1, 2007.



Pit Señor

SMART Fires up Sinulog 2007

Revelers at Cebu's famed fiesta, Sinulog Festival, had more reasons to celebrate as Smart Communications, Inc. jumpstarted festivities with fun-filled events, exciting promos, and a host of value-added services – a thrilling mix that truly had everyone exclaiming, "Ang Saya sa Smart!"



SMART's very own contingent: Tribu SMART sa Kina-Iyahan wore the Smart Buddy colors proudly at the Grand Parade.

Smart pulled all the stops to make sure tourists and devotees enjoyed the most thrilling Sinulog fiesta of their lives. Costumed in Smart Buddy colors of blue and green, Tribu Smart sa Kina-iyahan captured Sinulog's unique pageantry of faith with energetic routines in the free interpretation category at the grand parade. Dancers moved two steps forward, one step backward to the sound of the drums with cries of Pit Senyor ringing from the crowd, loosely translated, "an urgent plea to the Sto. Niño."

Smart First Aid stations were also highly visible on the parade route, offering free medical assistance in partnership with the Philippine National Red Cross-Cebu chapter.

RED CROSS
SMART
First Aid Station

SMART, along with the Philippine National Red Cross, does its share in giving medical attention to those in need during the festival.

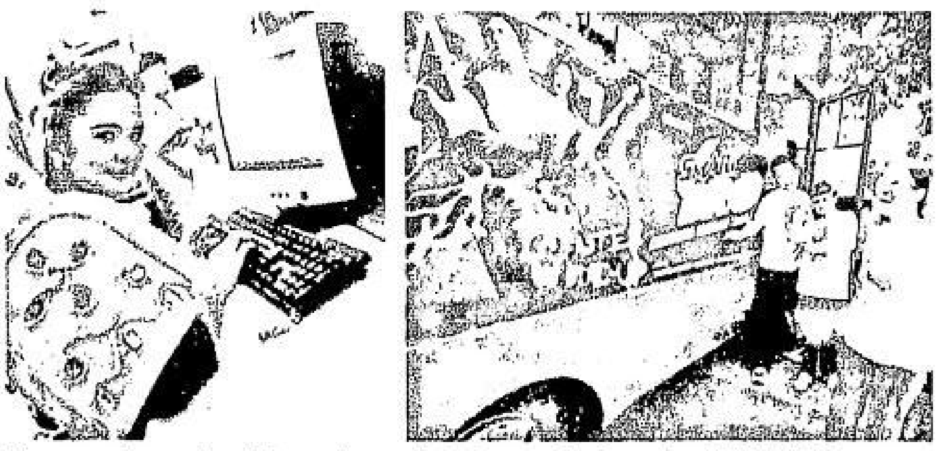
For the Sinulog weekend, Smart offered special rates on the Smart Buddy SIM from P100 to P90 and the Talk 'N Text SIM from P60 to P55. An *"All Talk"* promo also allowed their prepaid subscribers to enjoy calls for as low as P1.11 per minute up to three minutes.

Eager locals availed of the great deals from SMART during the Sinulog weekend.

The special promos were on top of the *Labat Text* services launched recently for Smart Buddy and Talk 'N Text subscribers nationwide.

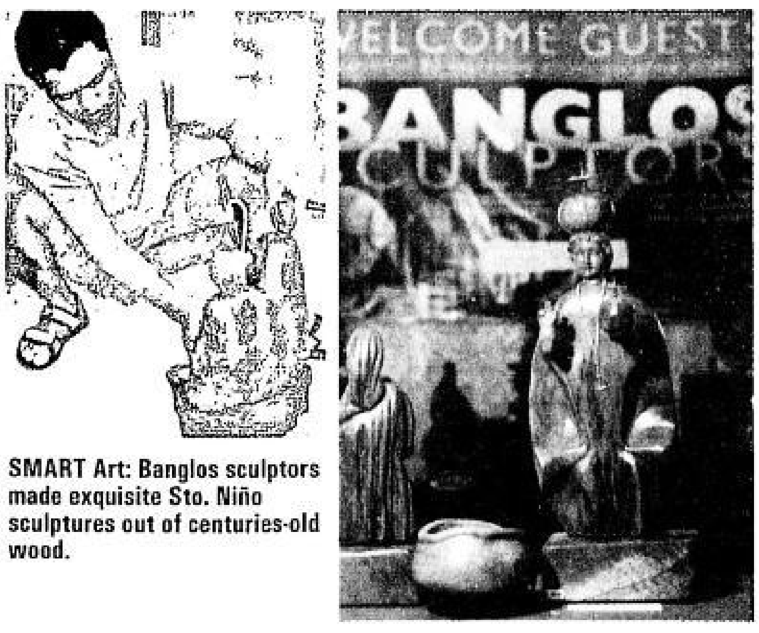
Labat Text 35 gives Smart Buddy and Talk 'N Text subscribers 100 SMS for only P35 or 35 centavos per text message. *Labat Text 20* caters exclusively to Talk 'N Text subscribers, allowing them to send 50 SMS to all networks for only P20. *Labat Text* services expire after one day and are available at any SMART Load retailer or sari-sari store.

There was also free Internet surfing via *SMART BROom*, a mobile van that serves as an Internet café powered by wireless broadband, Smart Bro.



Fiesta revelers and participants browsed the Internet for free using SMART BRO.

Over at the Cathedral Museum, Smart spearheaded an exhibit cum sale of Sinulog-inspired driftwood carvings by the Banglos sculptors. Fishermen and farmers, the Banglos Sculptors were trained and mentored by renowned artist, Rey Paz Contreras, after a series of typhoons devastated their community in Barangay Banglos, General Nakar, Quezon. Proceeds from the sale of the artwork will be shared by the Banglos Sculptors Multi-Purpose Cooperative of the Cebu Archdiocesan Commission for the Cultural Heritage of the Church, to support the ongoing restoration of the Cathedral Museum of Cebu.



SMART Art: Banglos sculptors made exquisite Sto. Niño sculptures out of centuries-old wood.

During the Miss Cebu pre-pageant at the Fuente Osmeña, 24-year old Kristine Uy was chosen Miss Smart. The event showcased not only Cebu's beauties but also Smart's capacity to provide fast, reliable Internet surfing and downloading via High Speed Downlink Packet Access or HSDPA, an evolution of 3G UMTS technology that allows higher data transmission rates of up to 1.8Mbps, 32 times faster than the regular dial-up service.

As the sun set on the final night of Sinulog, partyphiles trooped to catch Pumpfest '07, a series of shows supported by Smart that featured top Manila bands and Cebu DJs held at Club Pump @ Cebu Convention Center, Pump Mango and the Mango Square Parking Lot.

(Left) Nursing graduate Kristine Uy bagged the Ms. Smart award during the 2007 Miss Cebu Pre-Pageant; (Top) Pageant attendees sampled SMART's 3G-HSDPA Internet service at Waterfront Hotel.

True to form, Sinulog 2007 has turned out to be one of the country's biggest spectacles. To the uninitiated, the festivity is not easy to capture. One has to be there to fully appreciate it – the faith, joy and powerful sense of community. And with Smart at the forefront, Sinulog 2007 proved to be another "Ang Saya sa Smart" experience for Filipino families.

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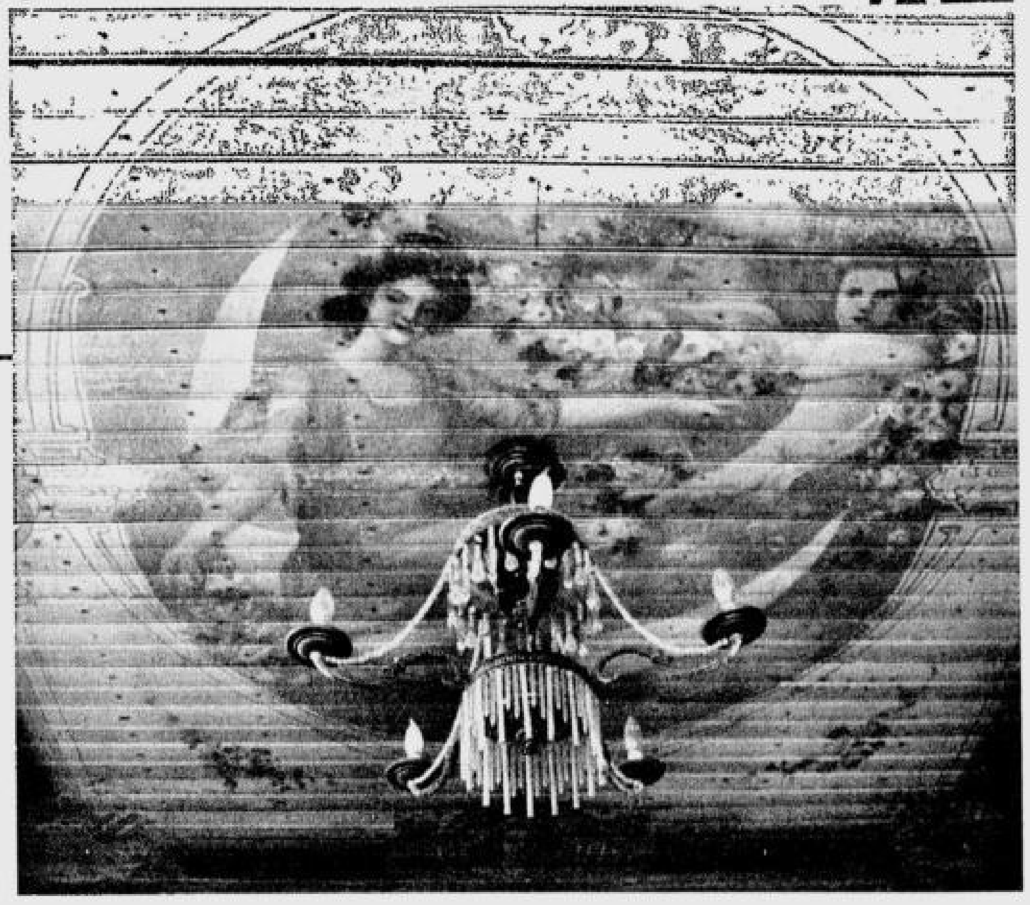
Malabon's 'Bahay na Puti' keeps a cherished memento



THE HOUSE'S prime attraction is a mural on the ceiling of one of the bedrooms. The painting was reportedly done by National Artist Fernando Amorsolo, a gift to the house owner's daughter whom he was courting at that time.

PHOTOS BY RYAN LIM

By Nancy C. Carvajal

FROM THE OUTSIDE, THE MORE THAN A century-old "Bahay na Puti" on Arellano Street in Concepcion, Malabon City looks just like any other old house badly in need of a new coat of paint.

But the two-story structure made of stone and hard wood built in the 1890s is considered one of the city's hidden treasures.

Standing on a 500-sq m lot and with a garden overlooking the Malabon River, the house has weathered time and the whimsical turns of Mother Nature.

It looks out on the quiet street through huge sliding windows with square glass panes. These same windows were featured in a music video done by a popular band, according to Thelma Luna, a retired school teacher.

Thelma, who is married to the son of the original owners, Don David and Andrea Luna, said the house, considering its age, is in good condition.

"It can probably withstand another century before a major repair would be necessary," she told the INQUIRER.

Except for a broken glass pane caused by Typhoon "Milenyo" and the peeling paint on the outside, the house is as solid as a fortress.

Floods at high tide

Living on the first floor, however, has become impractical because of the constant flooding that occurs during high tide.

What sets the house apart from other antique dwellings, however, is a mural painted on the ceiling of one of its four rooms.

The painting is reportedly the work of National Artist Fernando Amorsolo.

"It was Amorsolo's gift to Encarnacion Luna, my husband's sister, whom the artist tried to woo," Thelma said.

The room with the mural used to belong to Encarnacion. It is now occupied by the couple's house help who has no idea who Amorsolo is.

Priceless

"Like the rest of us, she has no idea of its true value," Thelma said.

The oil painting is of a woman surrounded by flowers and two angels.

In the 1970s, the owner of a chain of fashionable department stores offered to buy the artwork for P50,000. She also promised to pay for the repair of the ceiling.

According to Thelma, the woman wanted to install the painting in her house in an upscale subdivision in Makati City.

"But the offer was politely refused by my in-laws although they did not exactly know how much it was worth," she added.

According to Thelma, her in-laws wanted to preserve the house for the next generations.

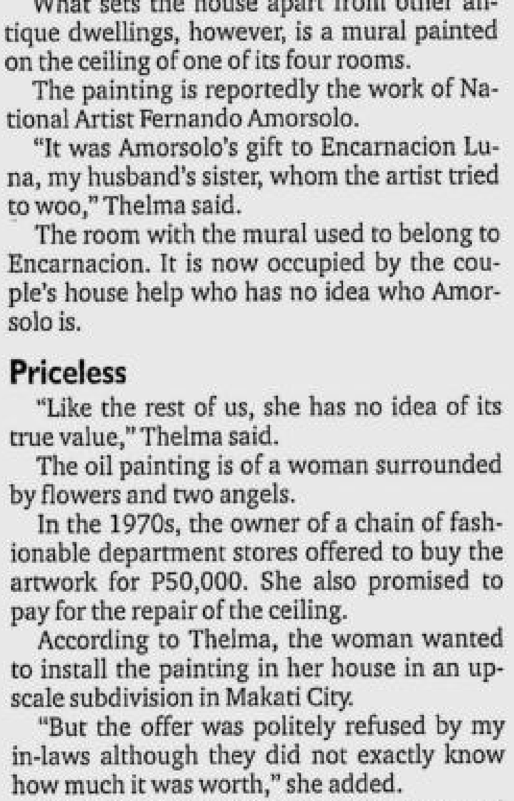
Few renovations

Not much in the house has changed, except for some renovations done in a room and the kitchen to make it more user-friendly.

The house has retained all its original features—the stairs made of *yakal*, and the spacious living room on the second floor with its high ceiling and *tindalo* flooring.

"Even though the house has been exposed

MALABON/ A20



SAVE for some minor renovations, the house has retained most of its original features—its *yakal* stairs and *tindalo* flooring.

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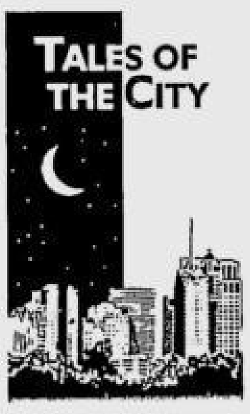
Singer for a cause makes a pledge to build a dream on

MOST people may know Paul Andrae Wilde Ybañez (top) as one of Philippine Idol's Top 12 finalists although to these street kids at a drop-in center in Antipolo City, he's just "Kuya Drae." PHOTOS BY AUGUST DELA CRUZ

By Candy Palenzuela-Dalizon



TWO YEARS AGO, PAUL ANDRAE "Drae" Wilde Ybañez, met a 6-year-old boy who had the weight of a 1-year-old. Marco Eliaca, who was not only malnourished but terribly sick, died three days later.

For Drae, the boy's death was a turning point in his life.

"I vowed that his death would not be in vain. I made a promise to myself that I would help less fortunate children in any way I can," said Drae, one of the top 12 finalists in the first Philippine Idol singing tilt held last year.

Drae met the young boy in 2005 in Arienda, Taytay while working with the Childcare Community Ministries Philippines (CCMP) as a public relations and fund-raising officer.

Before that, he used to be a customer development officer for one of the country's top companies.

Drae quit his job in 2003 to join CCMP, a Christian organization that feeds around 800 children five days a week. The group has 30 feeding stations nationwide staffed by CCMP personnel and volunteers who also provide health care and conduct good parenting seminars, Bible studies and first aid training.

He later left CCMP because he was drawn to another project, the Children's Garden of the Philippines, a drop-in center for street children in Antipolo City.

In fact, Drae said this was one of the primary reasons why he joined the search for the first Philippine Idol.

"I wanted to win the competition because I could use the cash prize to run the Children's Garden orphanage. I also wanted to pursue my dream of becoming a celebrity-singer to gain a lot of influence which would make me a more effective 'ambassador' for less fortunate children," he added.

Among the thousands who auditioned, Drae made it to the top 24 contestants and eventually, to the Final 12, as the 12 finalists were called.

The 27-year-old didn't win the title, but he was not disheartened by his defeat.

"It was a very good learning experience for me. I met a lot of people in the contest who became my friends and others who could help me with my charity projects as well," Drae added.

After the contest, he went back to work as fund-raising manager of Children's Garden.

Children's Garden looks after the immediate needs of 20 street kids, mostly boys, in Antipolo City. Thrice a week, the children—whose ages range from 12 to 18—gather at the center to rest, take a bath, socialize with other kids or just rest.

"They can also eat there if there's food available," Drae said, adding that at times, the center doesn't have enough money to feed the children. Right now, their immediate concern, he added, is to provide the kids' immediate needs such as food, clothing and shelter during the day.

Drae and the 13 volunteers who work with him are looking forward to the middle of the year when the center becomes a full-time orphanage. In the meantime, they are busy soliciting funds so they can buy beds, bed sheets and whatever else the children need.

"We still lack funds. We're waiting for our papers from the Department of Social Welfare and Development. But this situation doesn't stop us from doing what makes us happy which is to help these children," he said.

Why is he drawn to helping children?

"It's the children who need more attention and care right now. If we don't take care of them, our future stakeholders, what will happen to our country? If we don't salvage what is left us, what else is there?" Drae said.

Even as a child, Drae said he was already interested in helping other people, a trait he first saw in his mother, Jane.

"My mom has always been supportive of whatever I decide to do with my life," he added.

His father, on the other hand, Judge Elihu Ybanez of the Balayan, Batangas Regional Trial Court, although initially reluctant, has accepted his son's choice of work.

"Although my dad is happy to know that I care for others, he also thinks of my future. It was his dream that I would be a lawyer," Drae said.

He added that some people close to him are worried that he would end up nowhere by helping other people. Drae, however, argued that although his line of work may not make him financially stable, it gives him a sense of fulfillment.

Singing is also what makes him happy. Drae said he is glad he can combine singing with charity work because he has sang in fund-raising benefits for Children's Garden.

But he also dreams of becoming a successful singer some day.

"I see things in a practical way. I know it takes time to build a career as a singer. If it doesn't work out, I can try some other thing," Drae said.

Right now, he is busy rehearsing for the upcoming Philippine Idol Final 12 concert at the Araneta Coliseum. He will also be one of the guest performers at the Jesuits Volunteer Philippines concert scheduled on March 16 at the AFP Theater in Quezon City.

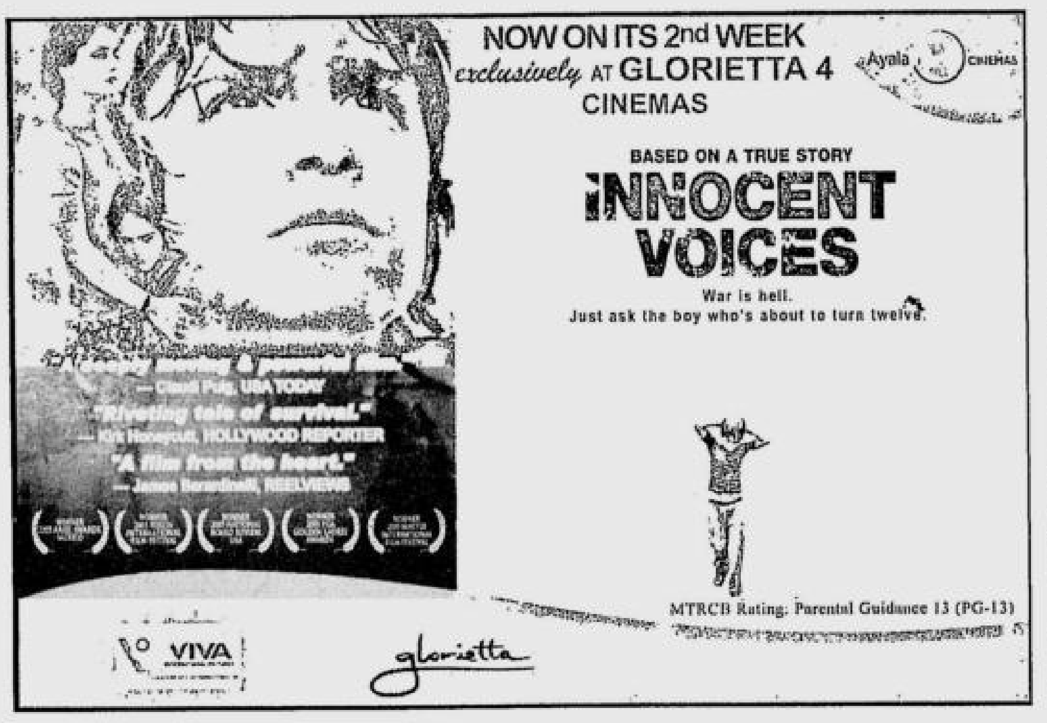
Drae doesn't know what the future has in store for him. All he knows is that he is determined to reach his goals the best way he can.

"I want to be a successful singer with my own business that would sustain me financially. At the same time, I want to be able to build a one-hectare orphanage in Tanay, Rizal, complete with a playground and sports center," he said.

He may not have won in the Philippine Idol talent search but to his family, friends and the street children he has been looking after, he has certainly earned the title.

Those interested in making a donation to Children's Garden of the Philippines can call 6605900 or e-mail Drae at drae.wilde@gmail.com. The center is located at Sitio Parugan, Antipolo City.

DRAE and some of the children clown around for the camera.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I'm innocent, says suspect in girl's slay

By Emman Cena and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

POLICE ARE LOOKING INTO THE possibility that an unpaid debt was the motive behind the kidnapping and killing of an 8-year-old girl whose body was found inside a drainage canal in Taytay, Rizal on Jan. 25.

In an interview with the INQUIRER yesterday, suspect Evelyn Amaba, 41, confirmed that the victim's mother, Mylene Labarientos, borrowed P30,000 from her and has yet to pay her back.

Amaba, however, denied that she kidnapped Labarientos' daughter, Maricis, to get back at her. "My conscience is clear," she said.

Amaba is now detained at the Pasig City Jail—along with son Elvin, 19, and brother-in-law Santiago Villanueva—on charges of kidnapping after a witness said she saw them with the victim on Jan. 21, the day the young girl disappeared.

The police are still looking for another suspect, Amaba's live-in partner, Ellie.

Ellie was arrested earlier with Amaba but was released for lack of evidence.

Maricris, a student of the San Miguel Elementary School in Pasig City, was reported missing by her mother, Mylene, on Jan. 21.

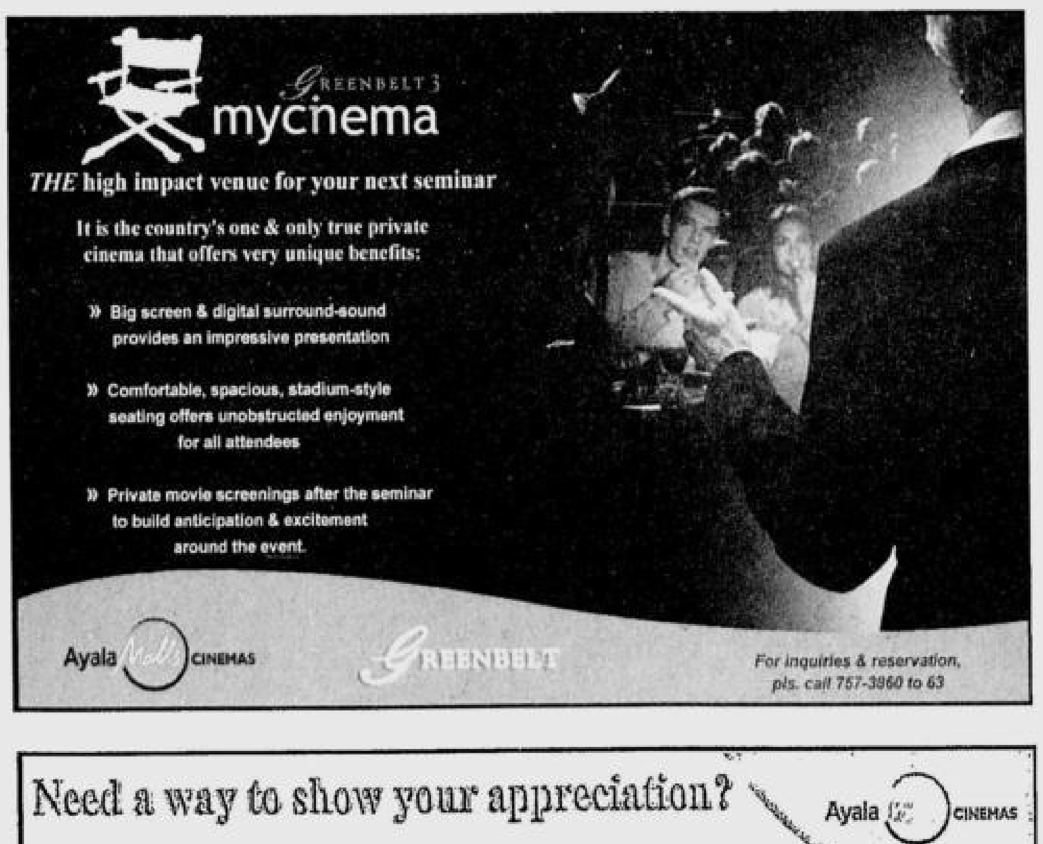
Two days later, police arrested Amaba and filed kidnapping charges against her the following day. On Jan. 25, Maricris' body was found inside a canal on Cabrera Road, Chilterns Subdivision in Barangay Dolores. The spot was several meters away from the suspects' house.

The victim was naked while her face had been burned, Pasig police chief, Supt. Francisco Uyami, told the INQUIRER.

A witness said she saw Maricris with a woman, whom she positively identified as Amaba, at about 9 a.m. on Jan 21, a few hours before the girl's mother reported her missing.

A task force has been formed by the Taytay and Pasig police to further investigate the case.

Officials said they would add homicide to the kidnapping charges filed against the suspects.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Bird watching festival slated in Parañaque

By Jocelyn R. Uy

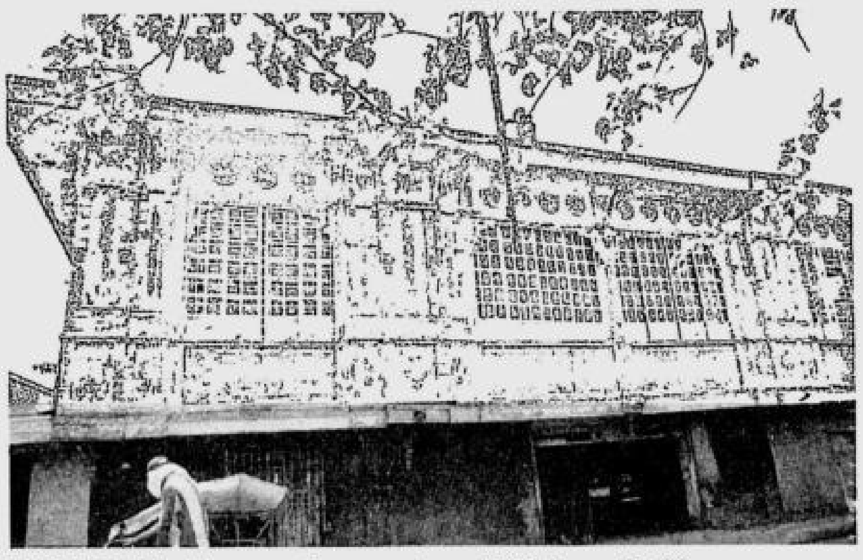
PARAÑAQUE CITY, WHICH HAS been home to thousands of feathered transients, will hold a weeklong festival next month to promote bird watching among students and at the same time, warn them about the dangers of the bird flu virus.

The "Just Watch, Don't Catch Bird Festival," which will coincide with Parañaque's 9th cityhood anniversary, is being organized by the City Tourism Office in cooperation with the United Nations International Children's Educational Fund (Unicef) and the Wild Bird Club of the Philippines (WBCP).

The weeklong festival will feature lectures from Unicef representatives, WBCP's turnover of binoculars and books on birds to the local government, film showings as well as contests on bird migration and the avian flu.

"By holding these activities, we can protect our children from the deadly virus as well as educate them about the different types of wild birds, thereby increasing their appreciation for wildlife and environment," Mayor Florencio Bernabe said yesterday in a statement.

Migratory birds like Chinese Egrets, Black-crowned Night Herons, Kentish plovers, Curlew Sandpipers and Siberian Ruby Throats can often be seen off the Coastal Road in Barangay La Huerta, which the local government has officially declared a bird sanctuary.



THE FACADE of the more than a century-old "Bahay na Puti."

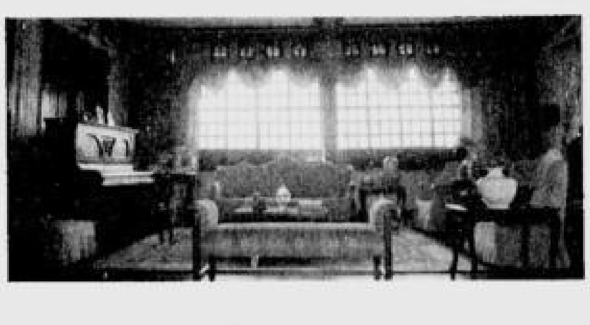
Malabon's . . .

From page A19

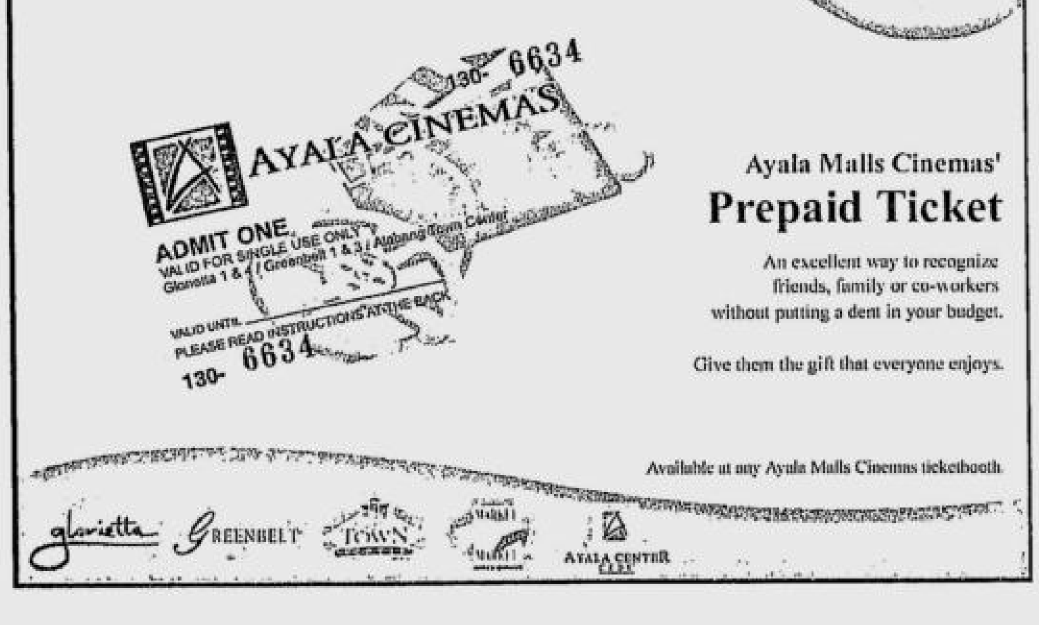
year after year to heavy rains, the roof does not leak and the floors don't squeak. We have worked hard to preserve this house," Thelma said.

Several famous artists and personalities often drop by unannounced, fascinated by the house. Some have even asked if it is for sale. It is not.

"For now, the family think it's best that we preserve and keep the house," Thelma said.



THELMA Luna, who is married to the son of the house's original owners, said that despite numerous offers, they are not interested in selling the house.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GLOBAL Pinoy

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This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

TV show gets real, brings a sense of home to the lonely

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

A ONE-OF-A-KIND PINOY TELEVISION show, which showcases what happens to Filipinos abroad—how they adapt to their new environment and how, even after years of being away from home, they are still undeniably Pinoys through and through—gets real and gets close to Filipinos who now live and work outside the country to find out what really goes on in their regular, everyday lives.

Video jockey KC Montero hosts the new adventure-magazine show called "Usi," short for "*usisero,*" which exploits one of the Filipinos' arguably most inherent characteristics of meddling or getting involved with things which is none of his or her business in the first place anyway.

No glossing over

"I think Filipinos are *usi* in their own way," KC said. "On the road, if they see a car accident, they will all slow down and try to find out what happened."

"It's kinda' like a good thing and a bad thing," he said, referring to the sometimes negative connotation to being "*usi*." It is this Filipino characteristic which takes KC and his gang to different key cities every week to, ahem, "get involved" and, maybe, "meddle" with Pinoys' businesses there.

"In the show, we don't focus on the tourist spots," KC said, adding that the show does not try to glamorize or intentionally select only the good shots but will display how it is out there as it is, no glossing over.

"Pinoys don't hang out in the Eiffel Tower. They take a picture and leave. We'll go to where they really spend their time and find out what keeps them busy."

Filipinos are everywhere

Produced by Star Events, the same company behind the Kumustahan concert series in the Middle East, Europe, and the Asia-Pacific, which brings top local artists closer to Filipinos abroad, the show also helps to bring home overseas Filipinos in an innovative fashion.

With his natural comic stance and animation, KC is topbilled in the program as the "*usisero*" tasked to check up on his *kababayans'* ingenuity and discover how they manage to bring a sense of home.

KC also hopes that the program would make his viewers see the world, with Filipinos virtually everywhere, in a new perspective. "I think some people are afraid to leave the Philippines because they don't know what's in store for them abroad," he said, adding that, hopefully, the show would also capture Pinoy's capability to adapt to any kind of situation anytime, anywhere.

'Lechon baboy'

Having visited and done several shows abroad, KC has already brushed shoulders with many of his countrymen off stage. "Filipinos are everywhere. We're thriving. And no one can stop us!" an excited KC exclaimed, as he recalled playing *pusoy dos* with several Pinoys in Australia during one of the tapings of the first episode of the show.

He was also amazed at seeing big wooden spoons hung on walls as decorations in the homes of Filipinos there. In Black Town, Sydney, an area is devoted to selling *lechon baboy* and other Filipino products, as if he was still in the Philippines. "Where am I? Quiapo?"

"Anywhere you go, Pinoys will always be Pinoys. The only difference (of Filipinos abroad) is that they follow traffic rules," KC said in jest. In other words, Filipinos abroad are more disciplined.

He has met Filipinos who speak English with an Australian accent but still experience difficulties in pronouncing the p's and the f's correctly—a definite Pinoy trait, but all of them have their own unique story to tell. And living up to his *usi* self, got to know more than he bargained for about what happens in an all Pinoy-owned and managed winery, Japanese restaurant, and car clubs, among others, and how these Filipinos operate their businesses in a foreign country.

Himself an 'usi'

Because KC shuttles back and forth abroad to film the show for several days straight, he is virtually an "*usi*" OFW himself. But that poses no problem as he loves to travel. In fact, he just treats these shoots as breaks, almost as vacations.

Moreover, he doesn't think he'll be missing the Philippines very much at all as he's pretty sure he'll be surrounded by hordes of Filipinos abroad anyway.

KC: The "meddler" is all over the world.

KC has encountered many Pinoys already but, for future episodes, is still looking forward to meeting more of his *kababayans* in Europe, the Middle East, US, and South America, among others. Already, KC and his crew are scheduled to leave for Malaysia in a couple weeks' time to film the succeeding episodes. Co-hosted by George Rocha, "Usi" shows today and every Sunday at 11 a.m. on Studio 23.

The entertainment OFWs crave

By Nikko Dizon

KUWAIT—FILIPINO ARTISTS MAY NOT HAVE autographed calendars or baseball bats to give to their compatriots for souvenirs like American celebrities do when they come to entertain thousands of US soldiers stationed at military camps here.

Rey Santos, 29, has seen Hollywood star Bo Derek and a group of National Football League cheerleaders at the US camp where he works.

"They gave all these signed items to the soldiers," Santos told the INQUIRER in Filipino. "But for me, as a Pinoy, I want to see Ogie Alcasid in person and hear him sing. He's my favorite."

Undoubtedly, the songs Alcasid and his fellow artists sing in a Kumustahan concert in November is enough to make the Filipinos overseas feel closer to the 7,100 islands they left in search of a better, more financially secure future for them and their families.

"To the Filipino overseas, it's like remembering Manila through these songs," top comedienne Nanette Inventor said. "*Dala-dala namin ang Pilipinas sa kanila.*"

Setting nostalgic mood

Inventor, the concert host, opened each Kumustahan show in three Middle East cities with her hit song, "Salamat, Salamat Musika," setting the mood for a two-and-a-half concert of guaranteed home-grown entertainment with just the right mix of classic and pop music and funny spiels by the performers.

Audiences cheered the moment they heard veteran singer, Dulce, belt out her Metropop hit "Ako ang nagwagi," whooped when she sang "Maalaala mo Kaya," and were lulled to contentment by the Visayan love song "Usahay."

Ladies in the audience were starry-eyed as Alcasid serenaded them with his hits, "Nandito Ako," "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang," and "Kailangan Kita."

In Muscat, Oman, a group of girls danced impromptu with him on stage as he sang the VST and Co. hit "Sumayaw, Sumunod."

Rapper Francis Magalona, who was in the Dubai show by "special request," brought the house down and had the audience singing his hits, such as "Kaleidoscope World."

Sexy actress Ara Mina held her own amid this group of multi-awarded singers and showed her vocal prowess with several songs from her originals, "Dance, Dance Paikot-Ikot" and "Ay, Ay Pag-Ibig" to her rendition of the powerful Evanescence song "My Immortal."

A highly entertaining medley of Original Pilipino Music (OPM) capped every show, leaving the audience highly charged and often, wanting for more.

OGIE Alcasid and his Filipino fans, led by nurse Lolita Espanueva (sixth from left), pose like long-lost friends inside a hospital in Kuwait.

PHOTOS BY NIKKO DIZON

Listening to OPM, as well as making them laugh, is the kind of entertainment that the Filipinos overseas crave for, said concert director Rey Memije, himself a son of an overseas Filipino worker.

"You will be proud to be Pinoy, at least of our artistry and musicality, when you listen to our songs," he said.

Most affecting

But what struck Memije the most, from the many Kumustahan concerts he has directed, was how Christmas and nationalistic songs always deeply affect the Filipino overseas.

"The crowd would always turn serious and quiet when the artists sing songs like 'Magkakapatid' and 'Ako ay Pilipino.' Many cry when they hear 'Pasko na Sinta Ko,'" he said.

Memije surmised these are the songs that remind the Pinoys of their roots, of who they are, and who they had to painfully leave behind.

"The concert somehow tells the Pinoy overseas that you are going home one day, too. It would be nice to have 'Babalik Ka Rin' as a finale song," Memije said.

Since it was nearing Christmas, Alcasid included "Pasko Na Sinta Ko" in his repertoire for the concert tour which ran from Nov. 9 to 17 and covered Muscat, Dubai, and Kuwait.

Memije's observation became tangible the morning after the show in Kuwait.

Alcasid was the last person Filipino nurse Lolita Espanueva expected to see at the Royale Hayat Hospital where she and her Filipino friends worked as nurses.

"You made us cry!" Espanueva, 27, chided the singer in jest as she posed for a picture with him.

Espanueva told the INQUIRER this was her first time to work overseas.

She left behind her family and her boyfriend, and with Christmas then just a month away, hearing "Pasko Na Sinta Ko," made her ache for home even more.

During the show, Alcasid was barely into the third stanza of the song when it had to be abruptly stopped to give way to Muslim afternoon prayers.

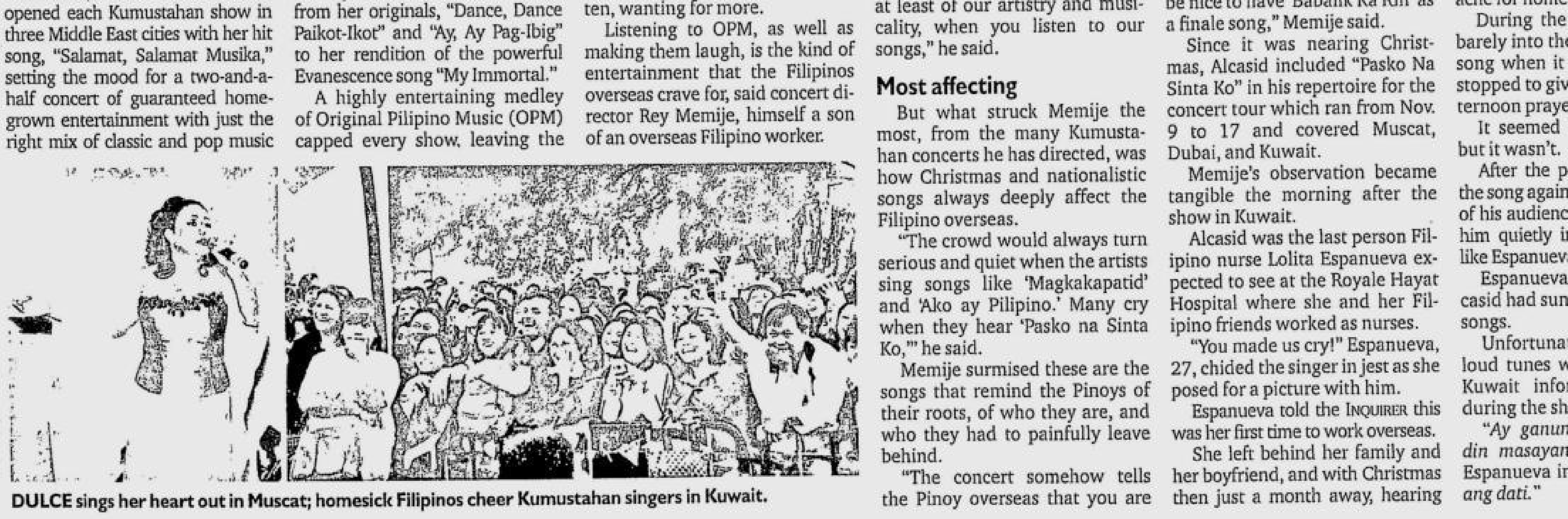
It seemed to be anticlimactic but it wasn't.

After the prayers, Alcasid sang the song again—and had a number of his audience either singing with him quietly in their seats, or cry like Espanueva and her friends.

Espanueva said she wished Alcasid had sung happier Christmas songs.

Unfortunately, Alcasid told her, loud tunes were not allowed by Kuwait information authorities during the show.

"*Ay ganun? Pero sana meron din masayang* Christmas song," Espanueva insisted. "*Para maulit ang dati.*"



DULCE sings her heart out in Muscat; homesick Filipinos cheer Kumustahan singers in Kuwait.

How we get rid of our excess baggage in New Zealand

By Divina C. Paredes
Contributor

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND: IT is one day of the year where you are encouraged to be ruthless, to lose all sentimentality—and be the better for it.

I am talking about what we call in this part of the world "Inorganic Day," and it is one of my favorite days of the year.

It works like this: All households are allowed to dispose off inorganic rubbish and leave these on the curbside for the council to collect for free and dump them in landfills.

Each household is allowed to put out no more than one cubic meter of rubbish and the items should be able to be carried out by two people.

The council is pretty specific what constitutes inorganic rubbish. They exclude garden waste like chopped wood; demolition material like timber, concrete or rubble; hazardous waste like asbestos, gas cylinders and paint tins; and rubber tires.

Bags of household rubbish are also not included because these should be disposed during the weekly collection.

Recycle, re-sell

The idea is to avoid the occurrence of these items ending up in the parks, reserves or bodies of water. But for many households, inorganic days mean so much more.

It usually takes a week for the council to collect all the rubbish and during that time it is not unusual for people to be driving or walking around the community, checking out the piles in front of your house for things they could recycle or even sell afterwards.

After all, as the cliché goes, another person's trash could be another person's treasure.

True, there are the outright rubbish—chairs with missing legs, kitchen gadgets such as blenders and toaster ovens that are beyond repair, kettles with missing handles.

But then, there are other stuff that could still be useful to other households. One year, for instance, we disposed our still decent looking sofa and in an hour, it was already occupying a neighbor's lounge. Two years ago, it was our fan-baked oven that had go to. My brother Noel had gifted me with a brand new oven, and so its predecessor carried a sign with it: "Old, but still working." It was gone within the day.

Rule of thumb

My rule of thumb is, if the item that I leave out is still usable—pots and pans, silverware, plates and cups, for instance—I put them in a box so that whoever will be interested can just easily choose which items they want.

You see, some of the "treasure hunters"—for want of a better term—just spread out the items and don't bother to put them back in order. So during the week of the collection, the discarded stuff from all the households could be found all over the place, leaving mounds of eyesores on the sidewalks.

Thus, a number of households, including ours, just take out their stuff on the last day of the collection so that there is no danger of these items being spilt on the streets.

But I feel good whenever I see people getting our still reusable stuff—and I have a very personal reason why.

Before moving to Auckland, I was a postgraduate student in Sydney on a very limited budget. My friends and I looked forward to inorganic day in the different suburbs around our area for they allowed us to furnish our humble apartments literally for free.

Six years ago, we moved to Auckland and I must confess I furnished our first apartment with items collected during inorganic days. Like most new migrants, we tried to live as simply as we could as we adjusted to our new abode.

Less cluttered home

These days, we have a policy in the house that any item that has been unused for a year becomes a candidate for the next inorganic day.

The result? The house is less cluttered these days and I find myself making fewer impulse purchases.

Inorganic day has provided me a refreshing lesson on traveling light in life's superhighway.

Editor's note: Paredes is a Filipino journalist based in New Zealand.

'Terrorist' gets Canada apology, $8.9M

OTTAWA—CANADA APOLOGIZED ON FRIDAY to software engineer Maher Arar, who was deported to Syria by US agents after Canadian police mistakenly labeled him an Islamic extremist, and paid him C$10.5 million (US$8.9 million) in compensation.

Arar, a Syrian-born Canadian citizen, was arrested during a stopover in New York in 2002 on his way home to Canada from a holiday. He has said he was repeatedly tortured during the year he spent in Damascus jails.

US officials deported Arar after the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said he was a suspected Islamic extremist, but an official Canadian inquiry said there was no evidence he was linked to terrorism.

The deportation has become a sore spot in Canada-US relations, and Prime Minister Stephen Harper renewed his call for Washington to remove Arar from its security watch list as he announced the settlement on Friday.

"On behalf of the government of Canada, I wish to apologize to you, Monia Mazigh (Arar's wife) and your family for any role Canadian officials may have played in the terrible ordeal that all of you experienced in 2002 and 2003," Harper said in a letter of apology which he read at a news conference.

In addition to the C$10.5 million, an Arar lawyer said the government would pay for C$1 million in legal fees.

Arar said afterwards that he could not begin to say how much Harper's statement and the compensation meant.

"In doing so, the government of Canada and the prime minister have acknowledged my innocence. This means the world to me (and my family)," he said.

The official inquiry by Justice Dennis O'Connor found the RCMP had wrongly told US border agents that Arar was a suspected Islamic extremist and slammed the police for incompetence and dishonesty. Canada's top Mountie resigned in December over the issue.

Arar had initially sued Ottawa for C$400 million, a figure he later cut to C$37 million.

Harper defended the final settlement: "I know to some Canadians that will sound like an awful lot of money, but I can tell you that the reality is, given the findings of the O'Connor commission and the unjust treatment that Mr. Arar received, that figure is within this government's assessment of what Mr. Arar would have won in a lawsuit."

In Washington, Democratic Sen. Patrick Leahy issued a statement saying he was seeking answers as chair of the Senate judiciary committee as to why Arar was sent to Syria. *Reuters*

Breakthrough chip energy efficient, faster

INTEL, THE WORLD'S LARGEST chip maker, has overhauled the basic building block of the information age, paving the way for a new generation of faster and more energy-efficient processors.

Company researchers said the advance represented the most significant change in the materials used to manufacture silicon chips since Intel pioneered the modern integrated-circuit transistor more than four decades ago.

The microprocessor chips, which Intel plans to begin making in the second half of this year, are designed for computers but could also have applications in consumer devices. Their combination of processing power and energy efficiency could make it possible, for example, for cell phones to play video at length—a demanding digital task—with less battery drain.

The work by Intel overcomes a potentially crippling technical obstacle that has arisen as a transistor's tiny switches are made ever smaller: their tendency to leak current as the insulating material gets thinner. The Intel advance uses new metallic alloys in the insulation itself and in adjacent components.

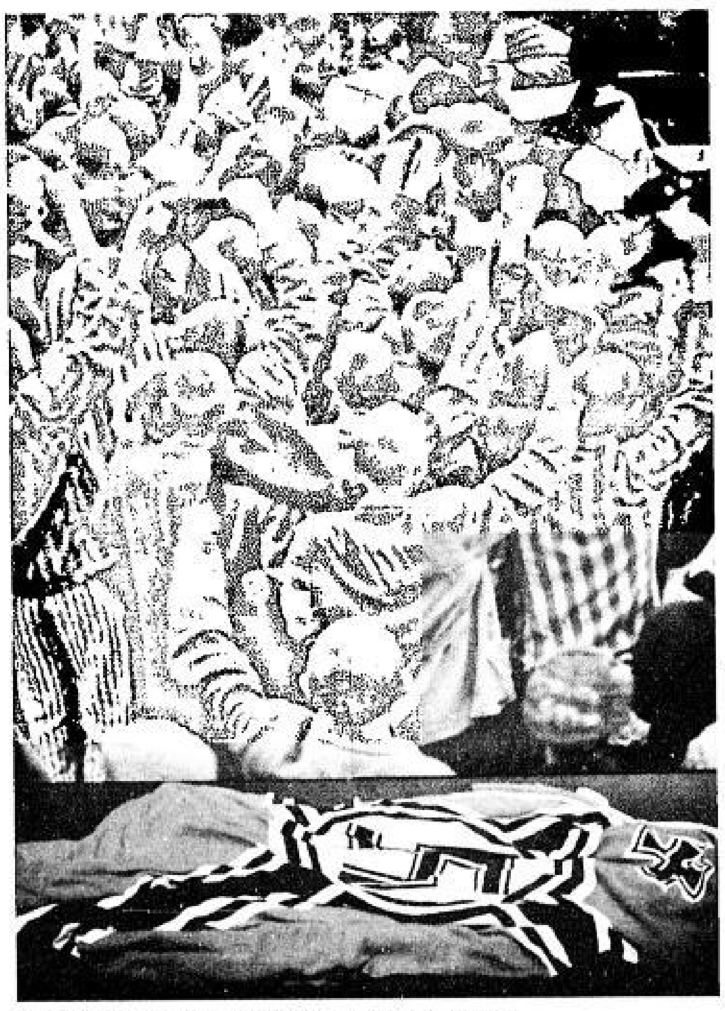
Word of the announcement, which is planned for Monday, touched off a war of dueling statements as IBM rushed to announce that it was on the verge of a similar advance.

"This is evolutionary as opposed to revolutionary, but it will generate a big sigh of relief," said Vivek Subramanian, associate professor of electrical engineering and computer sciences at the University of California, Berkeley.

Currently much of the industry is building chips in what is known as 90-nanometer technology. At that scale, about 1,000 transistors would fit in the width of a human hair. Intel began making chips at 65 nanometers in 2005, about nine months before its closest competitors.

Now the company is moving on to the next stage of refinement, defined by a minimum feature size of 45 nanometers. Other researchers have recently reported progress on molecular computing technologies that could reduce the scale even further by the end of the decade.

Intel's imminent advance to 45 nanometers will have a huge impact on the industry, Subramanian said. "People have been working on it for over a decade, and this is tremendously significant that Intel has made it work," he said. *NYT*



HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

A photo of a liberated concentration camp and a Nazi flag is displayed at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum Jan. 26 in Washington on the occasion of International Holocaust Remembrance Day .

AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

Smuggled uranium's source may be Russia

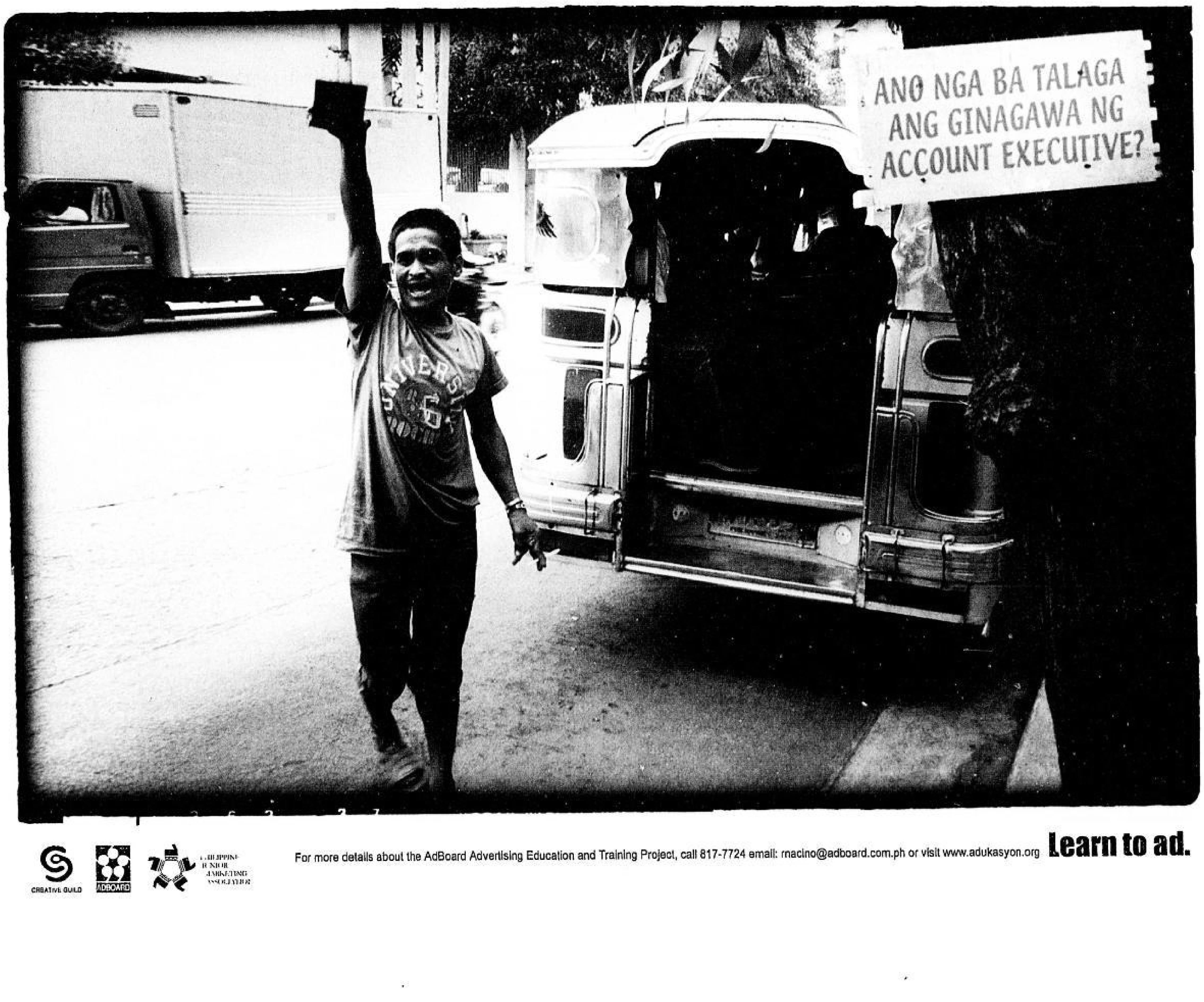
TBILISI—A Russian arrested on allegations he smuggled weapons-grade uranium into Georgia in his pockets may have obtained it in the Siberian city of Novosibirsk, a document seen by Reuters showed on Friday. Russia, whose relations with Tbilisi have been particularly tense over the last year, described Georgia's actions in the case as "provocative," Interfax reported. The Georgian authorities say they have not established the origin of the uranium but the document indicated the trail could lead to Russia's Siberian heartland, home to a large number of nuclear facilities and vast stockpiles of radioactive material. Former Soviet Georgia said on Thursday it arrested Russian citizen Oleg Khintsagov in a sting operation last year after he entered the country and tried to sell highly enriched uranium to agents posing as Islamist militants. But the case has revived worries about the safety of material left over from the Soviet Union. Proliferation experts had thought the danger of it falling into the wrong hands had declined with tighter security since the chaotic 1990s. *Reuters*

Newsman jailed for bugging royal phones

LONDON—A British journalist was jailed for four months Friday for hacking into more than 600 messages on the mobile phones of aides to the royal family, including from Prince William. Clive Goodman, 49, the royal editor of the News of the World tabloid, was sent to prison alongside researcher Glenn Mulcaire, 36, who received a six month sentence. The Sunday paper's editor, Andy Coulson, announced his resignation after the sentencing hearing, saying he took "ultimate responsibility" for the scandal which triggered questions about how widespread the practice is. *AFP*

US bans exports of iPods to N. Korea

WASHINGTON—The United States on Friday banned exports of iPods and other luxury items to North Korea, even as it set a date for talks on resolving a dispute over other US financial curbs on the communist state. The related moves added to a flurry of diplomatic activity that US and other officials say could lead to an agreement under which the North halts operations at its Pyongyang nuclear complex in return for energy aid and the release of some portion of $24 million frozen in a Macau bank. President George W. Bush—his popularity plummeting and embattled by crises with Iraq, Iran and North Korea—is desperate for a foreign-policy win, many US officials and experts say, and seems willing to make previously resisted compromises. Banned items include cognac, jet skis, iPods, jewelry and fancy cars, all part of an effort to pressure Pyongyang's communist leaders by denying their reputed high-end tastes in a desperately impoverished country. *Reuters*



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Williams annihilates Sharapova for crown /A26

UNITY CONGRESS

SBP inviting new BAP head to join

By Marc Anthony Reyes

WITH A LITTLE OVER A WEEK BEFORE THE SAMAhang Basketbol ng Pilipinas (SBP) holds the Unity Congress, several groups have started to confirm their participation in the meet that seeks to unify the country's basketball stakeholders.

"The numbers are growing every day," said PBA commissioner Noli Eals, the SBP's designated spokesman, who refused to identify the groups until the day of the conference. "We expect more groups to confirm their participation."

Eala added that the SBP has completed the task of mailing out the invitations for the Unity Congress to all the organizations included in the list of probationary members that it submitted to the international basketball federation (Fiba).

And they are ready to write one more invitee to the Feb. 5 meet.

Consolidated effort

Eala said the SBP was issuing yet another invitation to the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) to join the consolidated effort to regain the Fiba's blessing and pave the way for the lifting of the country's suspension from international competitions.

The additional invitation was prompted following yesterday's BAP elections where controversial athletics chief Go Teng Kok was installed as president replacing the ousted Sen. Jinggoy Estrada.

"We will wait for the notification from the BAP informing us of the change of leadership then we will invite the new leadership," said Eala.

Course of action

Elected with Go were Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte Sr. as chair, and Rep. Douglas Cagas of Davao and former sports commissioner Tisha Abundo as co-vice chairs.

"We are all new here, we still need to talk about what course of action we will take," Go told the INQUIRER. "But as far as I'm concerned, I'm now the third person in the three-man panel [of the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas]."

"He's welcome to join the panel," said Eala. "As we have always said, Mr. [Manny] Pangilinan always welcomes the opportunity to meet with the BAP as part of his sincere efforts to unify basketball."

"All we are asking from the new leadership is that we all come to the table with talking points so we can finally agree on issues," he added.

No dissolution

But Eala stressed again that the change of BAP leadership doesn't mean the dissolution of the agreements signed by previous presidents Joey Lina and Estrada.

Lina joined Pangilinan and then Pilipinas Basketball president Bernie Atienza in crafting the SBP consitution and by-laws following a join communique endorsed by the Fiba in Tokyo last year.

When Lina resigned, Estrada took his place.

"We have no reason to believe that the agreements that were entered into [by previous BAP administrations] were without the authority of the BAP and suggestions to the contrary are not consistent with the principles of law," Eala, a lawyer, said.

The new BAP hierarchy still hasn't decided to attend the Unity Congress

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Guiao confident; Pumaren plays it coy for Game 3

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:05 p.m.— Red Bull vs. San Miguel
6:35 p.m.— Barangay Ginebra vs. Talk 'N Text

YENG GUIAO FEELS THAT HIS RED BULL Barako's best-of-seven Talk 'N Text Philippine Cup semifinal series with San Miguel is swinging their way.

Talk 'N Text coach Derrick Pumaren, meanwhile, is staying on his toes and will not take anything for granted the rest of the way against Barangay Ginebra.

The Barako and Phone Pals hope to ride the momentum of contrasting wins on Friday when their 1-1 deadlocks with the Beermen and Gin Kings, respectively, are broken today at the Araneta Coliseum.

"I guess the best news now is that it (series) will at least go five games," Guiao, moments after a 106-84 Game 2 victory on Friday, said. "We have no doubts that we can beat (a powerhouse team like) San Miguel, and we beat them convincingly. We're (a) complete (team) and we are in shape."

The 22-point blowout was the worst beating dealt on the Beermen in this tournament, and it has obviously given the Barako a much-needed shot-in-the-arm considering how demoralizing their series-opening loss was.

"We just made bad decisions during the rally (of San Miguel in the fourth quarter of Game 1)," Guiao explained. "Tonight, we played them right. We are playing better defense and we're more confident taking shots."

While Guiao, whose Barako clash with the Beermen in the 4:05 p.m. contest, is talking with renewed confidence, Pumaren spoke in a guarded way, reminding everyone not to take it easy again and be blown off the court.

"Now that the series is tied, it's back to the drawing board for us," Pumaren, who shoots for a 2-1 lead in the 6:35 p.m. game, said.

"I saw different things that they (Gin Kings) did tonight, and I will prepare the team for that (Game 3)."

But the head-to-head tussles of the Phone Pals and the Kings in this tournament, though 3-1 in favor of Talk 'N Text, has seen just one figure dominate scoring—Ginebra swingman Mark Caguioa.

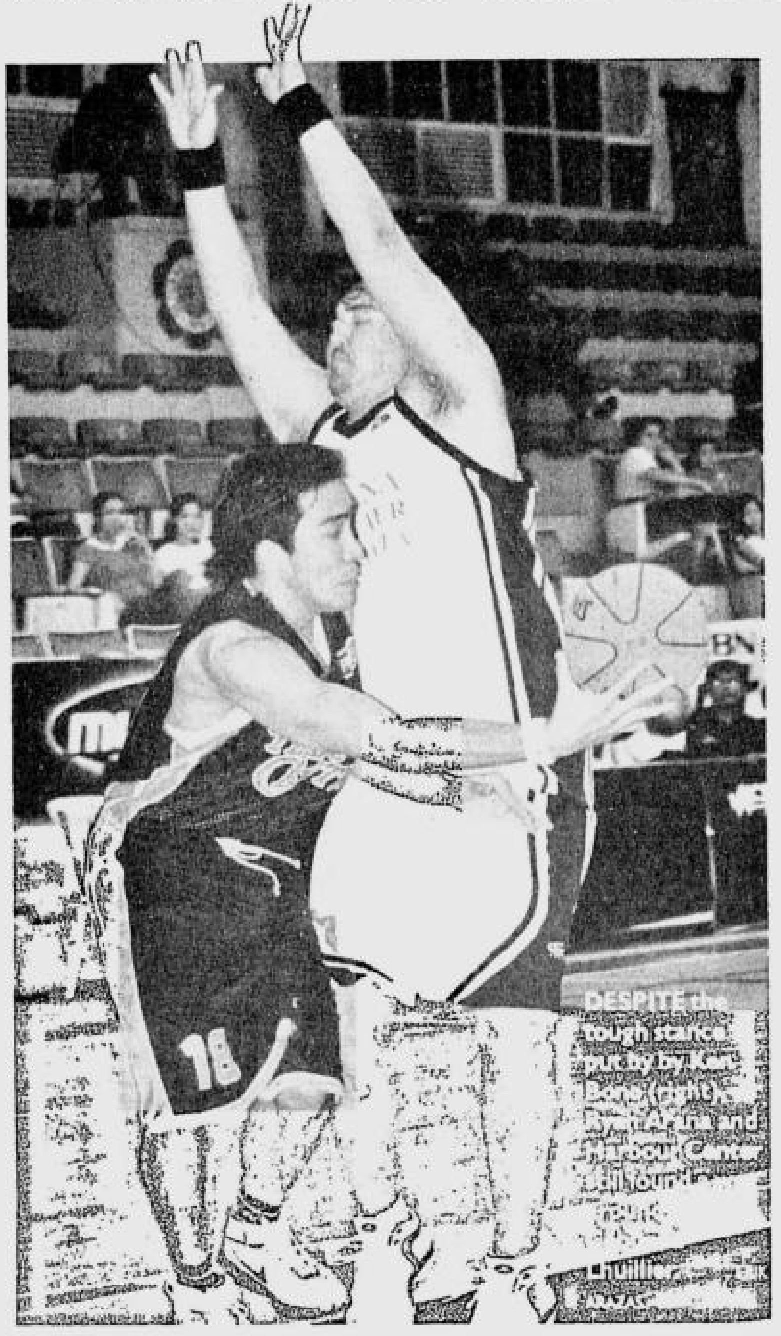
The 6-foot-1 ace scattered 31 points to be the first local in more than a year to score 30 or more for two consecutive games. He had 34 in a 115-100 romp in the series opener.

"Definitely, he (Caguioa) will be a problem for us," Pumaren said.

Talk 'N Text pounded out a 99-96 Game 2 victory after Mac Cardona knocked in the game-winning triple with 1.1 seconds left that took the lopsided look out of the series after the runaway Game 1 win of the Kings.

Eric Menk will continue to miss the semifinal, leaving most of the load to Rudy Hatfield and Rafi Reavis. Jay-Jay Helterbrand, after a career-high 16 assists in Game 1, had his first career triple double (15-10-10) on Friday which went down the drain. *Musong R. Castillo*

Harbour nails semis slot


DESPITE the tough stance put by Ken [illegible]

By Jasmine W. Payo

HARBOUR CENTRE FOUND A RALLY-STOPPER IN RYAN Araña and clinched a semifinal berth in the PBL Silver Cup yesterday.

GAMES TUESDAY
(*Olivarez College Sports Center*)
3 p.m.—Henkel Sista vs Mail and More

Araña unleashed a triple in the last 25.5 seconds as the Portmasters nipped a relentless Cebuana Lhuillier-Pera Padala squad in overtime, 86-83, yesterday at the Olivarez College Sports Center.

Main man JC Intal also played a key role in the scrambling win.

The Ateneo alum finished with 19 points, seven boards and six assists, including a key feed that set up Araña for the crucial three-pointer that lifted the Port Masters ahead, 84-83.

Unable to convert in the dying seconds, the Moneymen were forced to foul seldom-used Jonathan Fernandez, who iced the game with two free throws in the last 3.3 seconds.

The Port Masters will battle the Toyota Otis Sparks—the only team they haven't beaten this conference—in a best-of-five semifinal series.

"We were lucky," admitted Harbour Centre coach Jorge Gallent. "Great shot by Araña and great two free throws from Fernandez."

Henkel Sista later forged a decider in its own quarterfinal battle against Mail and More with a 79-72 triumph in the second game.

Khiel Misa fired 10 of his 16 points in the final period, including a triple that lifted the Super Sealers to a 77-71 margin in the final minute.

"I think Mail and More came out not ready because they played without their coach," said Sista mentor Caloy Garcia.

Assistant coach Allan Gregorio called the shots for Mail and More. Head tactician Lawrence Chongson missed the game due to a prior commitment in Hong Kong.

The winner of Tuesday's knockout game will meet Hapee-PCU in the other semifinal pairing.

Harbour Centre survived the double-double efforts of Doug Kramer and Ken Bono, who buried a triple in the last 29.8 seconds of regulation to forge the extra period at 74-all.

The Port Masters led by as many as 15 points, 53-38, before Kramer singlehandedly mounted an 8-0 comeback that cut the deficit to 53-46 before a Macky Escalona made it 53-48.

Escalona, Bono and Kramer continued to fuel the rally that inched the Moneymen within a basket, 73-71, in the final minute of regulation.

Bono posted 30 points on top of 12 rebounds, while Kramer added 20 and 11 boards.

Harbour lodged a protest after the game, contesting that a goal-tending should have been called on Bono's shot in the closing seconds.

The scores:

First Game

HARBOUR CENTRE 86—Intal 19, Vergara 12, Arana 11, Lanete 9, Gamboa 6, Capati 5, Ortiguerra 5, Asoro 4, Gaco 2, Fernandez 2, Juntilla 2, Raymundo 0.

CEBUANA LHUILLIER 83—Bono 30, Kramer 20, Escalona 17, Dela Cuesta 10, Yee 2, Abadia 2, Oreta 2, Solis 0, Luanzon 0, Viardo 0, Mendoza 0, Dulay 0.

Quarters: 23-18, 46-36, 65-55, 74-74 (reg), 86-83 (OT)

Second Game

HENKEL SISTA 79—Misa 16, Gregorio 15, Arellano 13, Malabanan 12, Bonus 6, Bauzon 6, Eman 5, Alfad 4, Saldua 2, Urra 0, Robles 0, Pinera 0.

MAIL AND MORE 72—Bravo 16, Buenafe 15, Yambao 8, David 7, Quinahan 7, Del Rosario 6, Canizares 4, Espiritu 4, Te 3, Viray 2, Pribhdas 0, Aquino 0.

Quarters: 21-12, 41-36, 56-56, 79-72

Pagunsan tumbles with a 77

DOHA—JUVIC PAGUNSAN, AFTER EASILY making the halfway cut, struggled in the third round Saturday while Frankie Miñoza played steadily to gain ground in the Commercialbank Qatar Masters.

Pagunsan stumbled to a 77 and found himself among the tailenders at 218 in the $2.2 million event jointly sanctioned by the Asian Tour and European Tour.

The 2006 Asian Tour's Rookie of the Year started the day at 3-under 141 after adding a 71 to his opening 70. But he couldn't approximate his sharp form in the first 36 holes, submitting nines of 38-39 which was marred by five bogeys against only two birdies.

In contrast, Miñoza resolutely hacked out a 73 for 217. After struggling with a 75, Miñoza made the 144 cutoff mark through a swashbuckling finish that saw him birdie five of the last nine holes to wind up with a three-under 69.

Angelo Que, the only other Filipino in the topnotch field, rallied with a level 72 but failed to survive the 36-hole cut at 145. He started with a 73.

Australian Richard Green grabbed the lead at 13-under after 10 holes of the third round at press time with South African two strokes behind at 11 under.

Sharing third at 10 under were Nick O'Hern and Paul Lawrie.

Green celebrated Australia Day in grand style on Friday, shooting a brilliant seven-under-par 65 for the joint halfway lead with Goosen, who carded a 68.

The duo were at 11-under-par 133 and two shots clear of another Australian leftie, O'Hern, who shot a 69. *Asian Tour News*

Rahman nears title deal with Samil Sam

BUFFALO, NEW YORK—FORMER WBC champion Hasim Rahman is close to a deal to fight Sinan Samil Sam in a bout that would pit together two of the organization's top four heavyweight contenders.

"We're in serious negotiations and expect to complete them by next week some time," Rahman's manager Steve Nelson said on Friday. "We are pretty close to finalizing the deal."

Nelson said the fight would be scheduled for May and take place in Istanbul, Turkey.

Rahman (41-2-6), the WBC's fourth-ranked contender, hasn't fought since losing his title to Oleg Maskaev in August.

The Turkish-based Sam (27-0-3) is the third-ranked contender and the WBC's international heavyweight champ. Since losing to Maskaev in November 2005, Sam has three straight victories, including a 12-round unanimous decision over Bob Mirovic in November.

It's possible that one or both fighters could move up a notch in the rankings now that top-ranked contender Samuel Peter has defeated No. 2 James Toney for a second straight time this month.

Citing undisclosed problems, Nelson also said Rahman is pulling out of a scheduled fight against Ray Mercer, which was to take place in Chester, West Virginia on Feb. 22.

"It had nothing to do with money. It had to do with the fact that (Rahman) had some problems and we're not going to take the fight unless he's 100 percent," Nelson said.

Buffalo heavyweight Joe Mesi (33-0) will be featured on the West Virginia undercard. His father and manager Jack Mesi announced on Friday that Mesi will fight journeyman George Linberger (29-1-8) in a scheduled 10-round bout.

It's the fifth—and longest—fight in Mesi's comeback bid since he had his medical suspension for a brain injury lifted last February. The WBC's former top-ranked contender, Mesi had been out of boxing after sustaining at least two subdural hematomas—bleeding on the brain—in winning a unanimous decision over Vassiliy Jirov in March 2004.

The 33-year-old Mesi is currently training in Puerto Rico. *AP*

Goma has new target in sight

By June Navarro

RICHARD Gomez is aiming for glory in new sport. ERIK ARAZAS

IT WAS A SCENE STRAIGHT OUT OF an action movie.

With his headset on and protective glasses in place, Richard Gomez loaded his shotgun and hit a single flying target—not once, but twice.

For the next five rounds, Gomez accurately divided the clay birds into three, loading and firing his double-barreled gun without wasting a shell.

One of the most eligible bachelors in the 90s had just warmed up after a month-long layoff from his current recreation.

"This is the sport that I have chosen after fencing," said Gomez, who has several Southeast Asian Games medals in fencing, including gold medals in the men's team epee during the 2003 and 2005 editions of the biennial meet.

Also popularly known as Goma in sports and entertainment circles, Gomez also owns four silver medals and a bronze from the SEAG during his 15-year stint as a national fencer.

After retirement, he was elected vice chair of the fencing association headed by former POC president Cito Dayrit.

"While other athletes retire by playing golf, I picked sporting clay as my retirement sport," said Gomez.

"You don't need physical strength," added the 40-year-old actor-sportsman. 'Just rely on your reflexes. For me, this is a form of relaxation but it turns out to be very competitive, too."

As founder and president of the Sporting Clay Association of the Philippines, Gomez has come a long way.

Realizing that his fencing career would be over soon, Gomez began further honing his shooting fundamentals in 2001 after a silver-medal stint in the Kuala Lumpur SEAG.

Three years later, Gomez won the 2004 national championships for sporting clay at a time when the sport was starting to build up a legion of enthusiasts.

Gomez then hooked up with the National Sporting Clay Association of America and the International Sporting Clay Federation (Fitasc), the world governing body for the sport.

At present, SCAP has at least 100 active members, majority of them competing in the year-round tournaments of the association.

Gomez also purchased a tract of land in Taytay, Rizal where the Team Goma Sports firing range is located.

"Compared with the other disciplines in shooting, sporting clay is different due to the inconsistent presentation of the targets," said Gomez.

Unlike trap and skeet shooting where the flight of the clay birds can be anticipated, the sporting clay targets present themselves in random fashion as they catapult from six trap machines situated in different areas within the firing range.

"It's much difficult to score in this sport," said Gomez, who made the national team in the same trap and skeet in the 2005 SEAG in Manila.

"But as in any other sport, you should be calm and the method of shooting the targets flawless as much as possible," he added.

These are the traits Gomez wishes to display if sporting clay is included in this year's SEAG in Thailand.

"It would be an honor to represent the country again so I hope it gets included," said Gomez, looking for a sixth appearance in the SEAG.

Gesta makes US debut

UNDEFEATED FILIPINO FEATHERweight Mercito "Guerrero" Gesta makes his initial foray into American boxing when he clashes with Chicago-based Mexican Barbaro Zepeda today at the Honda Center in a Top Rank-promoted card in Anaheim, California.

The Gesta-Zepeda showdown is one of the bouts in the undercard f today's Jorge Arce-Julio David Ler bout which will be aired in the US by HBO.

The 19-year-old Gesta (10-0-1, 3' KOs) is managed by American Terry Carter, and has been in the United States since middle of November as he was originally slated to be part of the Manny Pacquiao-Erik Morales "Grand Finale."

He took the whole of last year off following a medical problem and apparently was given the green light by US authorities to resume his career.
Salven Lagumbay, Contributor

SBP inviting. . .

From page A23

or not and Go said he would have to discuss it with his fellow officers.

"But definitely I will open the door to negotiation," said Go, whose entry into the basketball issue came after his recent resignation as special assistant to Philippine Olympic Committee president Peping Cojuangco.

The POC is supporting the establishment of the SBP after it suspended BAP over many issues, including the string of debacles the country suffered in international competitions. The BAP ouster, however, eventually led to the Fiba's suspension of the country from all its tournaments.

Go resigned following a major falling out with top POC officials which came to a head last month when he figured in a verbal—and almost physical—skirmish with first VP Rep. Monico Puentevella (weighlifting) and deputy secretary general Buddy Andrada (tennis). *With a report from Francis Ochoa*

Suns extend win run to 16

Kobe shatters Wilt's scoring record of 18,000

NEW YORK—THE STREAKING PHOENIX SUNS STRETCHED their winning streak to a franchise-record 16 consecutive games with a 98-90 road win over the Milwaukee Bucks on Friday.

Raja Bell scored 27 points as all five Phoenix starters finished in double figures.

The victory was the 32nd in 34 games for the Western Conference-leading Suns, who earlier this season had a 15-game winning streak. They are 35-8 for the season.

Shawn Marion contributed 23 rebounds and 11 points for the Suns while Steve Nash handed out 16 assists and scored 18.

Amare Stoudemire added 21 points and Boris Diaw had 11.

Charlie Bell paced Milwaukee with 21 points.

The Bucks, who lost their sixth straight game, went on a 7-0 run late in the contest to pull within 91-88, but Nash hit a jumper to push the margin to five.

Andrew Bogut's hook shot for Milwaukee made it 93-90 with 1:34 remaining before Bell's three-pointer sealed the win at 96-90 with 19 seconds to go.

The Suns are now 19-1 against Eastern Conference teams this season, including a perfect 11-0 on the road. Their overall win streak equals the 10th longest in NBA history and is the longest since the Los Angeles Lakers won 19 straight in 2000.

New York Knicks guard Jamal Crawford made 16 consecutive shots en route to a career-high 52 points in New York's 116-96 home win over the Miami Heat.

The Charlotte Bobcats shocked the Lakers with a 106-97 overtime victory in Los Angeles.

Kobe Bryant had 32 points to become the youngest player in NBA history to score 18,000 career points. Bryant, who is 28 year and 156 days old, supplants Wilt Chamberlain, who was 28 years and 165 days when he reached the milestone.

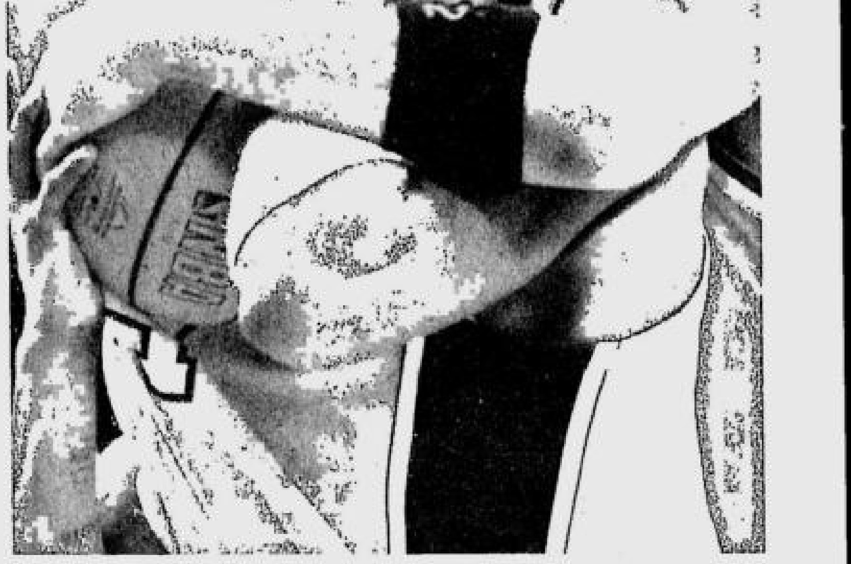
Bryant sent the game into overtime with a three-pointer at the buzzer.

The Washington Wizards overtook the Detroit Pistons as the winningest team in the Eastern Conference with a 99-96 road win.

Carlos Boozer had 25 points and 19 rebounds as the Utah Jazz stopped the Denver Nuggets 116-111 in Salt Lake City.

Tim Duncan blocked a career-high nine shots to go with his 26 points and 13 points in the San Antonio Spurs's 112-96 home victory over the Memphis Grizzlies.

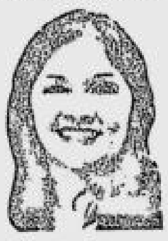
Reuters



THE Bobcats' Sean May (right), ties up the Lakers' Kobe Bryant. AP

Celebrities take shot at Bata

IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

MANY OF THEM WERE REALLY NOT good at the game, but in the spirit of fun and fundraising, they all signed up to compete against each other, and in the finale, against world billiards champion Efren "Bata" Reyes.

They called it "Pakners Invitational Billiards Tournament" after a flick starred in by the late film legend Fernando Poe Jr and Reyes some years ago. It was held at the Teatrino inside the Greenhills Promenade.

The billiards table at centerstage was said to have been the property of FPJ when he was still alive.

Showfolks, businessmen and a few celebrities from other walks of life were invited to the event. The proceeds were to be channeled to the Mowelfund.

* * *

Orville Roque, president of the Astra group, distributors of Extreme Magic Sing, had invited me to the affair. I suspect his secret purpose was for me to witness and document the "challenge the champion" finale which he envisioned would be between him and Bata.

Unfortunately, Orville was already disqualified from the preliminary knockout match when I arrived. But there was still the team competition, he said.

As soon as I entered the mini theatre, I immediately recognized luminaries like Susan Roces, Boots Anson Roa, Eddie Garcia, Rez Cortez, Leo Martinez, Anthony Pangilinan and Niño Muhlach.

I heard that business tycoon Lucio Tan's son Jimmy had also participated but that there were some tense moments between him and the organizers when he was being asked to wear the uniform. The tournament was being sponsored by San Miguel Beer.

A seatmate pointed to me that the lean gentleman with close-cropped hair with the cue at FPJ's table is the son of Brother Mike Velarde, and that he is a doctor.

* * *

I was impressed. It was really a celebrity-studded night, even if I missed some of the players who had already left.

But at least I caught up with Sen. Jinggoy Estrada who was supposed to do the ceremonial break. I didn't know he was the guest of honor because the tournament was well underway when he arrived.

I later found out they decided to start the games ahead of the ceremonies.

Good thing Jinggoy made it just before the closing rites. Nobody minded if he came late. The number 9 ball rolled in as he struck a golden break.

* * *

I stayed long enough to watch Orville lose in the team division. I didn't really get bored because Jon Hernandez and his friends from San Miguel had chatted with me practically all night.

I had to leave before the tournament was over, but not before getting a promise from Barry Pascua to give me the final results. Barry was doing the script for the television coverage.

* * *

Frankly, I experienced some anxious moments last Friday at the SM Mall of Asia Skating Rink as the national skaters regaled the media with a sneak preview of their number in the Asian Winter Games set Jan. 28-Feb. 4 in Changchun, China.

What if by some stroke of bad luck one of them falls and breaks a bone or even just a ligament? This was on the eve of their flight to China.

Well, thank God there was no such scenario. By today the group, composed of Michael Novales, Jerico Lim, Gracielle Jeanne Tan, Anne Clarisse Roman and Ramina Palaca should be in Changchun gearing up for the competitions where they are expected to perform very creditably.

Money game spurs Orcollo's rise

ORCOLLO turns 28 today.

SLOWLY BUT SURELY, DENNIS ORcollo's financial status has improved. And he credits it all to his billiards skills.

"Billiards is the reason why my family has gotten out of poverty," said Orcollo, who turns 28 today, in Filipino.

It is the cash prize, Orcollo admits, which inspires him to strive hard and go all the way.

"The money game has enhanced my reputation as one of the country's best players today," said Orcollo, who learned to play billiards in his grandfather's house in Bislig, Surigao del Sur, twenty years ago.

Most of the fancied players in the money game are Filipinos. Jose "Amang" Parica and Efren "Bata" Reyes used to be the best in the business. But Orcollo, although lacking in major titles here and abroad, is now ranked by his peers as the top moneymaker.

Orcollo himself has high regards for his compatriots. "There are many Filipinos who are feared when it comes to betting. I play cautiously against Ga-Ga (Antonio Gabica), Django (Francisco Bustamante) and Van-Van (Lee Vann Corteza).

On April 20, 21 and 22, Orcollo will take on a new challenge when he faces Yang Ching-shun of Taiwan in a winner-take-all 9-ball marathon presented by Golden Pool Classic at the Gateway Mall in Cubao, Quezon City.

The race-to-60 duel dubbed as "It's all about money...and more" and organized by Bugsy Promotion and Rocketman Enterprises offers $10,000 (nearly P.5 million) to the winner.

"Dennis and Yang are similar in many ways," said Rocketman Enterprises head Ramon "Mon" Tuason. "They're both fearsome money game players."

"The fight's going to be close," said Bugsy Promotion head Perry Mariano. "In a long match, the better-conditioned player will win." *Marlon Bernardino*

320 teams join Mango Tee golf

A TOTAL OF 320 MEMBER-GUEST TEAMS or 640 players are entered in the 23rd edition of the Mango Tee co-presented by Pilipinas Shell and Smart Communications at the Alabang Country Club on Feb. 7-11.

ACCI president Johnny Castillo and the Mango Tee committee chaired by Ed Lacson jointly announced that the tournament is fully booked once more.

Mitsubishi Motors and Citimotors are providing four cars as hole-in-one prizes in all par-3s of the layout and a lucky acemaker may even end up adding either a Yamaha cart from Kart Plaza or a Club Car from Turf Co. .

Heading the entries are former President Fidel Ramos, who will also lead the hitting of the ceremonial balls together with event sponsors on Feb. 5.

Southwoods monthly meet up

THE MANILA SOUTHWOODS Golf and Country Club has opened more slots to accommodate more members for its first monthly club tournament today at the Masters and Legends courses.

Sports and Games Committee chair Butch Campos has noted that while an average of 170 players per month in 2006, more than 250 members have already signed up for the January event.

A brand new Mitsubishi Lancer GLX and an eight-day, seven-night Royal Caribbean Mexican Riviera Cruise with two Korean Air economy class tickets top the prizes for lucky ace makers.

Also up for grabs are a Wilson golf set, an El Nido package inclusive of airfare for two, an SYM motorbike, three-days/two nights stay at Makati Shangri-La, Samsung products and Wellness exercise equipments.

Nat'l pro-am celebrity tilt at Riviera

THE CELEBRITY PRO-AM OF THE KONICA Minolta National Pro-Am will be held on Feb. 6 at the Riviera's Langer in Silang, Cavite.

Organizers said the 18-hole event, which is strictly by invitation, will feature the likes of President Fidel V. Ramos, DOTC Sec. Larry Mendoza, Toyota Motor Philippines' vice president for marketing Danny Isla, Riviera president Celso G. Castro and NGAP Chair Rod V. Feliciano of www.Express DHL.

They will be paired with the country's top golfers handpicked by the Excutive Committee headed by Edilberto B. Bravo, the U-BIX Corp. Chair and CEO.

The all-new generation Altis will be staked as a hole-in-one prize, with the Avanza, Toyota's latest model, up for grabs in the tournament proper on Feb. 7-10.

No less than 110 teams in the regular tournament are vying for the top prize of nearly half a million pesos from the total pot of P1.7 million in the series.

Call 525-6987 and 524-5160 (NGAP) and (046)414-2868 (The Riviera) for details.

SPORTSWATCH

Rotary golfest slated at Midland

THE PRESIDENT'S GOLF CLASSIC HOSTED BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF BAGUMbayan Manila returns to the Tagaytay Midland Golf Club on Feb. 7. Golf Tournament chair Ed Choa promises a more exciting tournament this year with exciting prizes for those who can score a hole-in-one in four designated holes. At stake are a Hyundai Getz, a golf cart, an Osim massage chair and an all-expenses paid trip to Hong Kong for two. Tournament founding chair/Past President Albert Que, who is also the EVP/COO of the Rotary Golfing Fellowship Foundation of the Philippines and president Pepot Sto. Domingo will welcome the participants. Registration starts at 6:30 a.m. while tee-off starts 8 a.m. Contact Ed Choa at 0917-8330833.

PBAPC sportswriting contest

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION FOR THE PBA PRESS CORPS ANNUAL SPORTS Writing Contest is Feb. 5, according to PBAPC president Nelson Beltran. The PBA Media Bureau-sponsored contest, open to college students who have never won the competition before, is slated Feb. 7 at the Araneta Coliseum. Registration can be made through Beltran at 0917-8510015, Hazel Ancheta at 638-1815 to 17 and Joel Orellana at 0917-4005112. Darren Neil Cabrera of La Union, Rachel Anne Capapas of Dumaguete and Aristotle Intila of Gen. Santos City gained a free-trip to Manila to join the final by topping regional eliminations. The national final winner receives P20,000, second placer P10,000 and third placer P5,000.

Junior volleyball league expands

THE TOBY'S SPORTS JUNIORS VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE FOR ELEMENTARY STUdents has grown. From 10 participating schools last year, it has drawn 19 schools for the 2007 edition. Entered are Miriam College, De La Salle Zobel, Woodrose School, Poveda Learning Center, St. Jude Catholic School, Lourdes School Q.C., Concepcion Elementary School, Hope Christian School, University of Perpetual Help, Angelicum College, Colegio San Agustin, Elizabeth Seton School, De La Salle Lipa, Diliman Preparatory School, Holy Trinity Academy, MGC New Life Academy, St. Francis of Assisi Bacoor, Sto. Cristo Elementary School and St. Andrew School Parañaque. Sponsors of the event, which started Jan. 6 and will run up to Feb. 25, at the covered courts of Miriam College High School, are Shakey's, Mikasa, Dunkin Donuts, Asics and the INQUIRER.

Dunca, Antonio rule SJC int'l derby

MAYOR BUDDY DUNCA OF PAMPANGA AND PARTNERS ALLAN SIACO AND sabong idol Patrick Antonio ruled the 122-entry SJC International 8-Cock Derby on Friday at San Juan Coliseum. Dunca's Banjo entry clinched the championship first after posting seven wins and one draw, and later duplicated by the AS PA Sagupaan Winning Line of Antonio and Siaco. Brothers Max and Bebot Roxas (Paniqui Tarlac PE), Lito Orillaza and Rudy Salud (Makati International Feb. 5, 7 and 9) and Pol Estrellado and Totoy Haruta (PE Sta. Cruz Rainier) emerged runners-up with 7 points apiece. Due to the smashing success of the event, host and SJC owner Rodolfo Pineda announced yesterday that the next international derby slated in June 2007 will have a bigger prize of P7 million.

Hobie National championship starts

THE 12TH EDITION HOBIE 16 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP UNREELS TODAY and tomorrow at Club Punta Fuego in Nasugbu, Batangas. First staged in 1996, the National Championship is the Philippine Hobie fleet's most prestigious event which is held early in the year to take advantage of the most challenging weather. Twenty-five teams, composed of men and women's teams from various countries will be vying for top honors in this year's tourney being supported by Club Punta Fuego, Rayomarine and Mobile 1. The Nationals once again incorporates the Philippine Masters Championship, the Philippine Open Championship and the Philippine Open Women's Championship. This year's defending champion is Team Maldita composed of Charlie Clement and Noki Jaravata, who recently competed in the Hobie Asia Championships in Hong Kong.

PitGames launches own website

PITGAMES, A POPULAR SABONG MAGAZINE PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY, REcently launched its official website, the PitGames-Online. "Cockfight aficionados can now access more cockfighting news, information, tips and other valuable information about the sport not only from Pitgames Magazine but also from http://www.pitgames-online.com," said Pitgames Inc. president Emmanuel Berbano. PitGames-Online executive producer Shereen de Guzman said the launch was held on Jan. 21 at the China Bistro in Libis, Quezon City. Among the well-wishers were National Gamefowl Breeders Inc. president Ricardo Palmares, Sonny Lagon, National Cockers Association 8-Cock International derby champions Bill McNatt and Mayor Jesry Palmares and Bobby Fairchild of Oklahoma.

Roligon cockfest gets support

ROLIGON MEGA COCKPIT'S 17TH ANNIVERSARY 6-COCK DERBY, SLATED Jan. 30, Feb. 1, 3, 5 and 7, got a big boost yesterday as two major players in the circuit pledged its support. The United Backyard Breeders Association (UBBA), boasting more than 100 members, and the TJT Cocking Academy have confirmed the participation of its members, said host Rolly Ligon. Guaranteed prize is P4 million for an entry fee of P11,000. Participants belonging to the first batch of 150 entries who will compete on Tuesday must submit entries tomorrow, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Other elimination rounds (2-cock) will be held on Feb. 1 and 3. For info, call 852-9812; 833-1638 and 851-2275 (Jona, Tiling or Shirley).

RACING TIPS

By TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Ort/Tri)—Bingbong (5), Mary Jane Bomb (7), Janie (2), Kawiliwili/Dancing Queen (4)

Race 2—(Ort/Tri)—Yukozuna (6), Queen Banana (4), Joker (3), Freedom Charger (2)

Race 3—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Golden Ride (9), Mr. Xavier (2), Baker's Field (1), Prince Carlo (6), Sweetsouthernsaint (4)

Race 4—(Ort/Tri)—Hoy Sobra Na (6), Blitzkneg (3), Head Turner (1), Silver Cho Cho (4)

Race 5—(Ort/Tri)—Dato's Pride (2), Idol (4), Classy Pages (3), BMI Baby (5)

Race 6—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Cristina (2), Sambat (6), Hot Shower (12), Manila's Style (10), Spanish Drums (3)

Race 7—(Ort/Tri)—Miss Fantastic (1), Imminent Star (5), Iron Heart (3), Mamaya (2)

Race 8—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Royal Scepter (11), Queen Father (14), Sharp And Deadly (10), Regal Chief (4), Brown Bomber (2)

Race 9—(Ort/Tri)—Doña Nene (2), Prima Vera (3), Hok Kee Hok (5), Don Ramon (4)

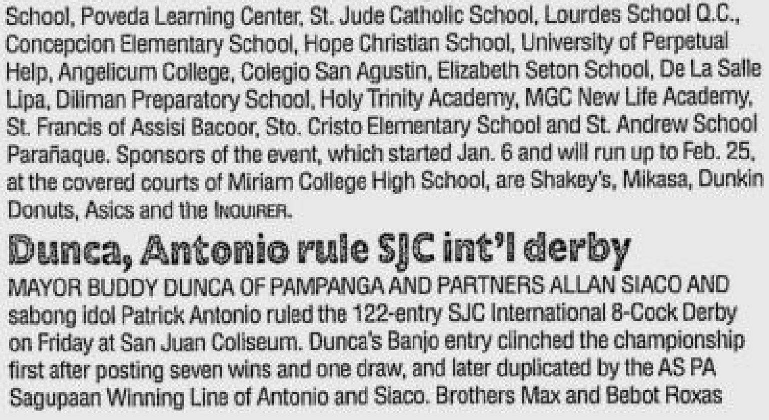
Race 10—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Friendly Venture/Tiger Rally (6), Ferrarious (7), Native Prince (9), Bundok Peninsula (8), Bunker Buster (10)

Race 11—(Ort/Tri)—Advance Party (6), Ocean Cookie (8), Strong Will/Yao Man (5), Irish Connection (3)

Race 12—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Lovely Tara/Yo Tero (11), Top Quest (5), Playing Cool (7), Hurry Prince (2)

Race 13—(Super 6/Ort/Tri)—Gelay's Charm (1), Ad Infinitum (6), Happy Again (7), Royal Rose (3), Carolina Belle (10), Wynona Raider (5)

Alessandra Racing bares power lineup for 2007



ALESSANDRA Racing composed of (from left) Mark Bumgarner, Matteo Guidicelli, coach Terry Fullerton, Alessandra Madrigal and Oliver Aquino.

ALESSANDRA RACING WILL BE PARADING a power-packed roster for the 2007 karting season.

Spearheading the team, which will vie for the 2007 Philippine Formula 125 and Rotax Max Championships, is lead driver Alessandra Madrigal, who turns 11 on Jan. 30.

Continuing to drive alongside her is two-time Karter of the Year Matteo Guidicelli, 17, who is bidding to duplicate his victories in 2004 and 2006.

Adding fresh talent to the team is Mark Bumgarner, 16, who will be carrying valuable experience culled from his 2006 European campaign. Oliver Aquino will also continue to drive for the team this year.

To bolster its chances for both championships, Alessandra Racing has hired the services of former world karting champion Terry Fullerton of the United Kingdom, who will hone and sharpen the skills of the crack squad.

The team has begun intensive pre-season testing and is set to compete in a tune-up race in Feb. 4 at the Carmona Circuit Philippines in Cavite in preparation for the first of seven rounds of the Rotax Max Challenge Philippines, which flags off on Feb. 11.

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MARIA Sharapova was hoping to win for her mom. AFP

Disappointed Maria: Loss will make me stronger

MELBOURNE—MARIA SHARAPOVA said she would carry the memory of Saturday's Australian Open thrashing from a "flawless" Serena Williams for the rest of her career and use it to make her stronger.

The Russian pin-up admitted she sought solace from her mother Yelena after being humiliated 6-1, 6-2, despite going in as top seed and world No. 1 against an unseeded opponent ranked 81.

Sharapova said she was disappointed at losing a Grand Slam decider for the first time after winning both her previous appearances in the final of a major, at Wimbledon in 2004 and last year's US Open .

The ultra-competitive 19-year-old said she always hated losing but Saturday's drubbing was particularly galling since it was her mother Yelena's birthday and she wanted to dedicate the win to her.

"I'll be honest with you, I don't like losing. You all know that," she told reporters.

"It's not fun. You go back in the locker room (thinking) 'darn it, I just lost, someone is celebrating over there, they're going to be opening a bottle of champagne.'"

Sharapova said her mother had told her to use the loss as a motivational spur in the future, rather than allowing it to haunt her.

"These moments make you stronger, not necessarily now," she said.

"When I win or lose, I always call my mom. She always tells me, 'Look, you got a tournament next week, you've got to focus on that'.

"'You're going to remember this day in your future, in your career when you're going to look back and say this really taught me something, this only made me stronger, this has happened many times.'

"Unfortunately, it was my mom's birthday today and I couldn't win for her. But she still made me realize this is just another loss."

Sharapova said Williams had made the most of her chances and ruthlessly punished her errors.

"She came out today and she really played flawless tennis," she said. "Maybe you personally gave her those chances but on the other side she still had to do it, had to go out and play well, and she did." *AFP*

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Williams annihilates Sharapova for crown

MELBOURNE—NEVER ONE TO DO THINGS BY THE BOOK, Serena Williams dramatically tore up the script on Saturday to bring top seed Maria Sharapova to her knees and capture a third Australian Open crown.

Comeback queen Williams demonstrated that she still belonged among the elite as she annihilated Sharapova, 6-1, 6-2, to win her eighth grand slam trophy.

The American had entered the tournament ranked 81st in the world, but made it look like a mathematical error with her brutal 63-minute destruction of a shell-shocked Sharapova.

Down on bended knee, Williams fired a crunching backhand angled winner to seal the match and immediately sent her racket flying out of her hand as she fell flat on her back in her moment of triumph.

Holding her head in her hands in disbelief, she got back on her feet and began leaping around the court. In fact she could barely stand still as she performed an impromptu jig before mouthing the words "Hey dad, thanks for the advice".

But once she hugged the trophy the tears started rolling down her cheeks as she dedicated the win to her sister who was shot dead in Los Angeles in 2003.

"I would like to dedicate this win to my sister, who is not here, her name is Yetunde," Williams said her voice cracking with emotion.

"I just love her so much. A couple of days ago I said if I win this it will be for her so thanks Yetunde," added Williams, who will climb to 14th in the world on Monday.

Men's doubles

Meanwhile, American twins Bob and Mike Bryan beat Jonas Bjorkman and Max Mirnyi, 7-5, 7-5, Saturday to win their second straight Australian Open doubles title and their fifth major.

Williams had proved she still possessed an appetite for winning big titles by trampling over five seeds in the run up to the final. On Saturday she claimed the biggest one of them all.

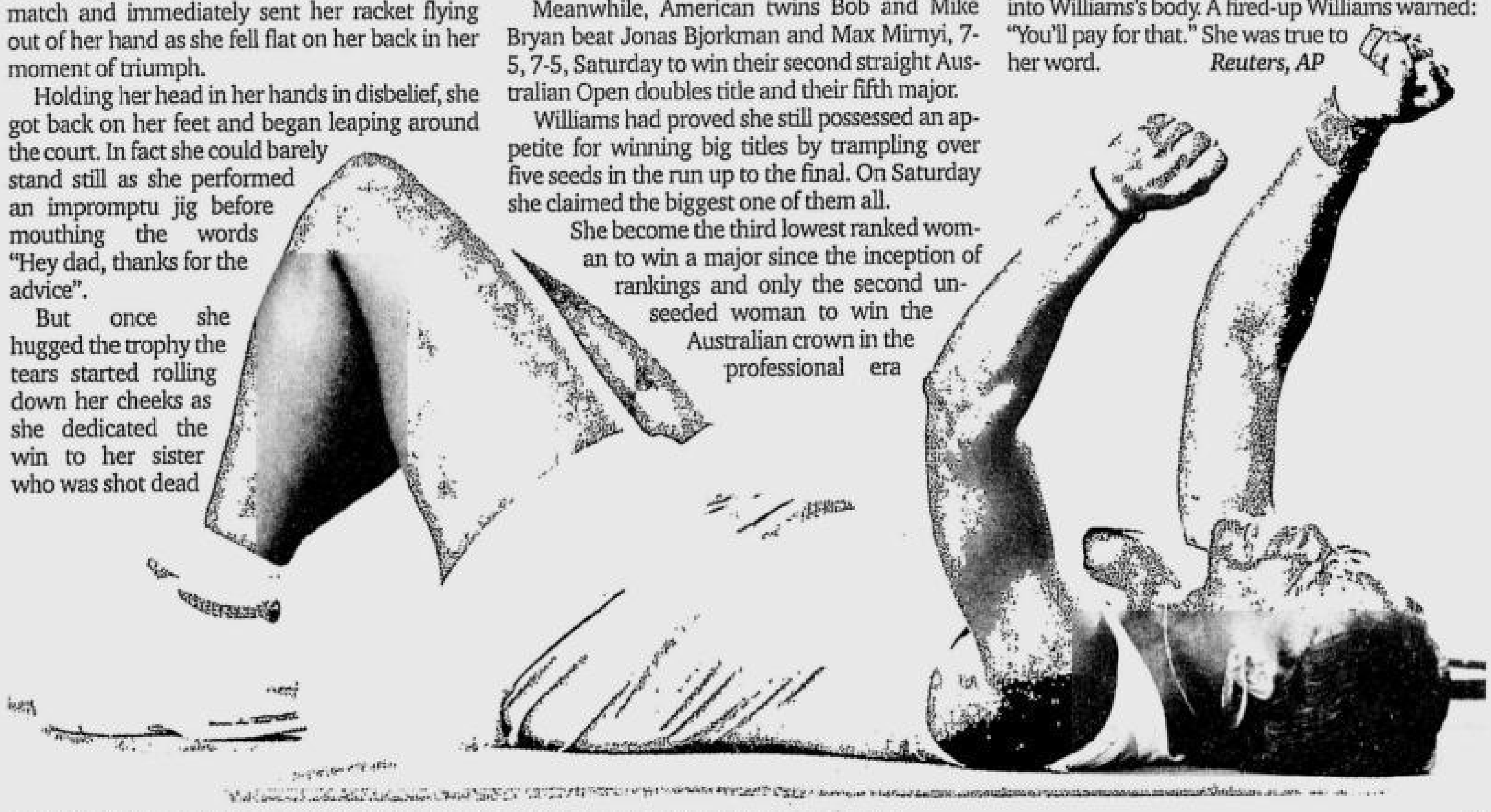
She become the third lowest ranked woman to win a major since the inception of rankings and only the second unseeded woman to win the Australian crown in the professional era after Chris O'Neil achieved the feat in 1978.

"You can never underestimate her, not many people expected her to reach the final but I did, she's an amazing champion," said Sharapova, who was looking to become the first Russian woman to win in Melbourne.

Two weeks ago, no one gave Williams a chance to reach the second week, let alone the final. But her steely temperament was on show from the start as she left Sharapova reeling by ominously charging to a 5-0 lead.

The Russian looked like her feet had been super-glued to the Rebound Ace surface as she failed to produce a winner until the sixth game of the first set.

When she did, she smashed the ball straight into Williams's body. A fired-up Williams warned: "You'll pay for that." She was true to her word. *Reuters, AP*



SERENA Williams falls on her back after bringing Maria Sharapova down to her knees. AFP

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TIGER Woods drops farther behind and trails by seven shots. AFP

Tour rookie now knows how it feels to be Tiger

SAN DIEGO—BRANDT SNEDEKER DIDN'T know how golf could get any better than an opening-round 61 until he walked up the 18th fairway to a standing ovation after expanding his lead and the size of his gallery at the Buick Invitational on Friday.

"I thought, 'This is what it feels like to be Tiger Woods,'" he said.

The only thing sweeter would be to beat him.

Snedeker overcame some sloppy tee shots with brilliant iron play for a 2-under 70 on the menacing South Course at Torrey Pines, giving the 26-year-old rookie a three-shot lead over Charles Howell III going into the weekend.

Woods also received a raucous cheer on the final hole, but only after he topped a 5-wood out of the bunker that nearly went into the water, blasted a pitch over the green into another bunker and escaped with par for a 72 that left him seven shots behind.

"All in all, it was a pretty ugly 5," said Woods, the two-time defending champion going for his seventh straight US PGA Tour victory.

Snedeker again struggled off the tee, hitting only three fairways. It got so bad that when he finally hit his first fairway on the back nine (No. 15), he had a man in the gallery say, "I finally won a dollar."

"I guess he was betting on me hitting the fairway," Snedeker said. "It wasn't a smart bet."

He could get away with errant tee shots on the shorter, easier North Course, and somehow survived without too much damage on the South, which will host the US Open next year.

SNEDEKER REUTERS

He was at 13-under 131.

Howell got into weekend contention for the second time in three weeks with a 64 on the pitch-and-putt North Course, putting him at 10-under 134. Former US PGA champion Rich Beem had a 68 on the South Course and was at 9-under 135 along with Bill Haas (66 on the North) and Charlie Wi (72 on the South).

Any tournament never really starts until the weekend, and that's especially true at Torrey Pines because of the disparity in courses. The average score was 4.7 higher on the South over the first two days, and the 74 players who made the cut will spend the next two days on the tougher South.

That will be another new experience for Snedeker.

He won twice on the Nationwide Tour last year, and he won the 2003 US Amateur Public Links, which earned him a trip to the Masters. And there certainly were enormous crowds at Augusta National, although they were more interested in his partners for those first two rounds (Fred Couples and David Toms).

But while Snedeker is wide-eyed and talking faster than usual in his Tennessee drawl, he knows he's playing some good golf. *AP*

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PLAZA Delights, in a two-story ancestral house declared a national historical landmark by the National Historical Institute.

Couple delights Laguna town, survives competition

Text & photos by Niña Catherine Calleja
Inquirer Southern Luzon

PILA, LAGUNA—-FOR OVER TWO DECADES, Liza and Joey Martinez have been winning the hearts of the town residents by having a mini supermarket, meat shop, canteen and pharmacy in one place called Plaza Delights.

Their plan for Plaza Delights is not only to operate in this town but also to expand to the rest of Laguna and then Metro Manila.

It took them 23 to implement the plan but finally in 2003, Plaza Delights became a canteen concessionaire of the International Rice Research Institute (Irri) at the University of the Philippines-Los Baños.

The eatery caters to trainees, guests, and at least 700 local and 59 foreign staff members of the Irri from more than 24 countries for seven days a week, including holidays.

Recently, it has also won the bidding for the concession at the Mariners' Hotel in Manila.

Small canteen

Liza, a nutritionist-dietician, and her coteacher started the business in this town in 1980.

"They started serving snacks in a small canteen with only four tables," Joey, a doctor of veterinary medicine, tells the INQUIRER.

His wife and her coteacher were looking for something to do during their free time and one of their goals was to bring some Manila cuisine to Pila.

Back then, there was really no restaurant or canteen in this town, Joey says.

One of the houses declared by the National Historical Institute as part of the heritage site in Pila, Plaza Delights is located in front of the town plaza and near the church, the town hall, and a school.

Thus, tourists visiting the town often grab a bite at Plaza Delights.

Joey joined the business after he and Liza got married. At first, they were only renting the small place, a part of an old house owned by their relative.

Joey says they got their big break in 1986 when part of the Plaza Delights became the first and only public calling office in the town.

"The people who usually make calls and wait become our regular customers," he says.

The couple saw the potential of the business to expand.

After some years, they bought not only the rented place but also the whole two-story house, then they added a mini-supermarket, bakeshop, a coffee shop and a pharmacy.

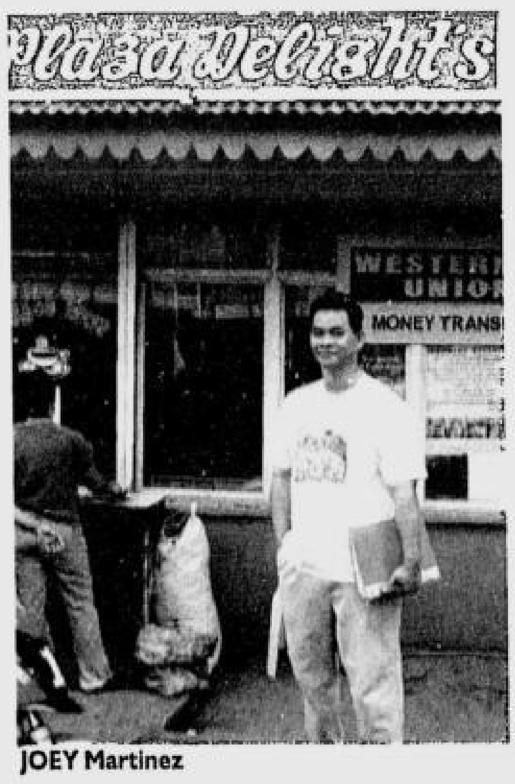
At present, the couple employs more than 40.

Diversifying

Competition came when two big convenience stores set up shop. A new mall in Sta. Cruz, the capital of Laguna, was also constructed.

Joey says to beat competition, they diversified their business.

COUPLE/ B2



JOEY Martinez

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INVEST ON SOLID GROUND

Designer diversity is key in drawing up new phones

Finnish firm Nokia shares how each device was thought of

By Abigail L. Ho

SINGAPORE—THERE was a time when the average techie knew all phone models from the different handset manufacturers, plus all of the handsets' basic forms and functions.

But today's telecom landscape is much more cutthroat, with handset manufacturers churning out a new model every minute—an exaggeration, for sure, but probably somewhere close to the truth.

So for a handset manufacturer to ensure that its devices will get noticed, it has to have a brilliant design team that will give the much-needed oomph to its mobile phones without sacrificing function.

At Finnish handset maker Nokia, its main design team is not only composed of some of the most creative people in the industry, but also some of the most diverse individuals, in terms of race and culture.

Simon Bradford of Nokia's design team says the global handset leader had people from more than 20 countries all over the world.

As if their diverse cultures were not enough to influence their designs, he says members of the Nokia design team actually spent some time with people from their target markets before formulating any new design.

"In designing, we get to know who uses our products. Before designing, we actually live with the people—in Brazil, Mumbai, Berlin, Peking—for a couple of days, understanding the way they behave, how they manage their contacts," he says.

"From here, we create trends, see what's coming. Then we design the products according to the way we think they should be Inspiration comes from the people who actually use our products," he adds.

PLAYING AROUND with colors

Built to suit

He says Nokia's products cater to people from all walks of life, all nationalities, all cultures and all ages. But since different markets have different characteristics, he admits that a device that might do well in one area might not necessarily in another.

In countries such as the Philippines and India, both of which are relatively polluted, Nokia Philippines corporate communications manager Luanne Erni says darker hues usually do well.

"For India and the Philippines, both polluted countries, we do away with whites. We usually get handsets with dark colors that will not look dirty," she says.

Across all markets, she says plum was doing well, and so was bronze. Red was also a very "attractive" color.

Bradford says Nokia is expanding its color range to include nontraditional Nokia colors such as red, green, blue and purple.

"But they're not just ordinary colors. We bring life to the colors by giving them different textures and finishes," he says. "All colors go through rigorous testing, giving life to the colors and giving personality to the products."

More than the design, he said Nokia prides itself on loading all sorts of nifty functions into its devices, no matter how small they might be.

And they try to ensure that the functions a Nokia device has does not make it any harder to use than previous models.

"One third of our design team are user interface designers. Nokia's strong point has always been its user friendliness. You don't have to read the manual. You can just use the phone right away," Bradford says.

Apart from user friendliness, he says Nokia's edge over other vendors was its "recognizability" among handset users.

In their quest to come out with new designs for the future, Bradford says Nokia designers would always have a bottomless pit of inspiration just waiting to be tapped.

"The life of the designer is always looking out at things," he says.

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas recently awarded Key Bank, a rural bank in San Antonio Nueva Ecija, the "Gawad Barya Award" for their participation in BSP's "Tulong Barya Para Sa Eskwela" coin collection campaign for the benefit of public schools. Key Bank got the award for the "highest amount and the highest number of coins collected for a rural bank category." Photo shows Key Bank consultant Benjamin Pumaren, Bank managing director Rolando Antiporda, BSP Governor Amando M. Tetangco Jr., and deputy governors Armando L. Suratos, Diwa C. Guinigundo and Nestor A. Espenilla.

Eight start-up teams make it to business plan finals

EIGHT VIE FOR VARIOUS AWARDS in the Philippine Emerging Startups Open (Peso) Challenge 2006 finals today. Peso, the Philippines' only business plan competition focused on innovation and technology driven ideas, will announce its 2006 winners at 4 p.m. in the Ayala Museum in Makati, Metro Manila. The competition had 56 team entries.

The eight teams who made it are:

Aqua Veggies

Aqua Veggies: A team working on an easy to assemble home garden using hydroponics. Their SNAPkit system allows amateur gardeners to grow plants and vegetables in limited spaces, and is also positioned as a "wellness" product.

Feathers2Fish

Feathers2Fish: A team that has a proprietary process for converting waste feathers into a high protein content fish meal. Most feather based meals have a high protein content, but the protein is not easily digested by animals to convert to meat.

This team has a plant based enzyme that can "melt" feathers, producing a protein meal that is cheaper than imported fish meal.

Gr8Eye

Gr8Eye: A team working on a biogas generation process using dried pineapple peelings. The biogas will be used as an alternative cooking energy source, and recycle 1.4 million tons of pineapple plantation waste in the Philippines.

Micronutrient

Micronutrient: A team working on extracting nutrients from shellfish. These extracts will be used to fortify food and also as input to the expanding nutraceutical industry worldwide. Their shellfish nutraceutical extract promises to alleviate nutrition problems worldwide at a competitive cost.

Proviera

Proviera: The vision of the Proviera team is to be the leader in the supply and development of modern proteins. Their initial plan is to establish a Single Celled Protein (SCP) production facility in the Philippines, used as an input for the animal feed industry.

RFID

RFID: A team composed primarily of engineers working on a product to design RFID reader modules using an advanced architecture and Digital Signal Processing (DSP) techniques. RFID stands for Radio Frequency Identification, a wireless form of tag meant to replace barcodes for retail businesses.

Styropor

Styropor: A team whose aim is to melt waste styropor in used cooking oil and form products from recycled styropor plastic.

Bone Recycling

Pinatubo Bone Recycling: A team that has a patented glass ceramic dental bone implant made up mainly of Pinatubo volcanic ejecta and bone ash. It is meant as a substitute for titanium metal dental implants commonly used today.

The 2006 Peso competition has some interesting statistics: 56 plans were received from ten universities across the country, as well as independent teams. Out of the 56 plans submitted, 31 plans were accepted representing 30 faculty members. 35 professionals and 94 students. Four (4) team members held PhD's, while 18 held MS degrees, with the rest having BS degrees. The 31 plans ranged from Information Technology/Telecom (9); Engineering and Process (4); Services (2); Agriculture (6 plans); Life and Biosciences (7), and Energy/Environment (3).

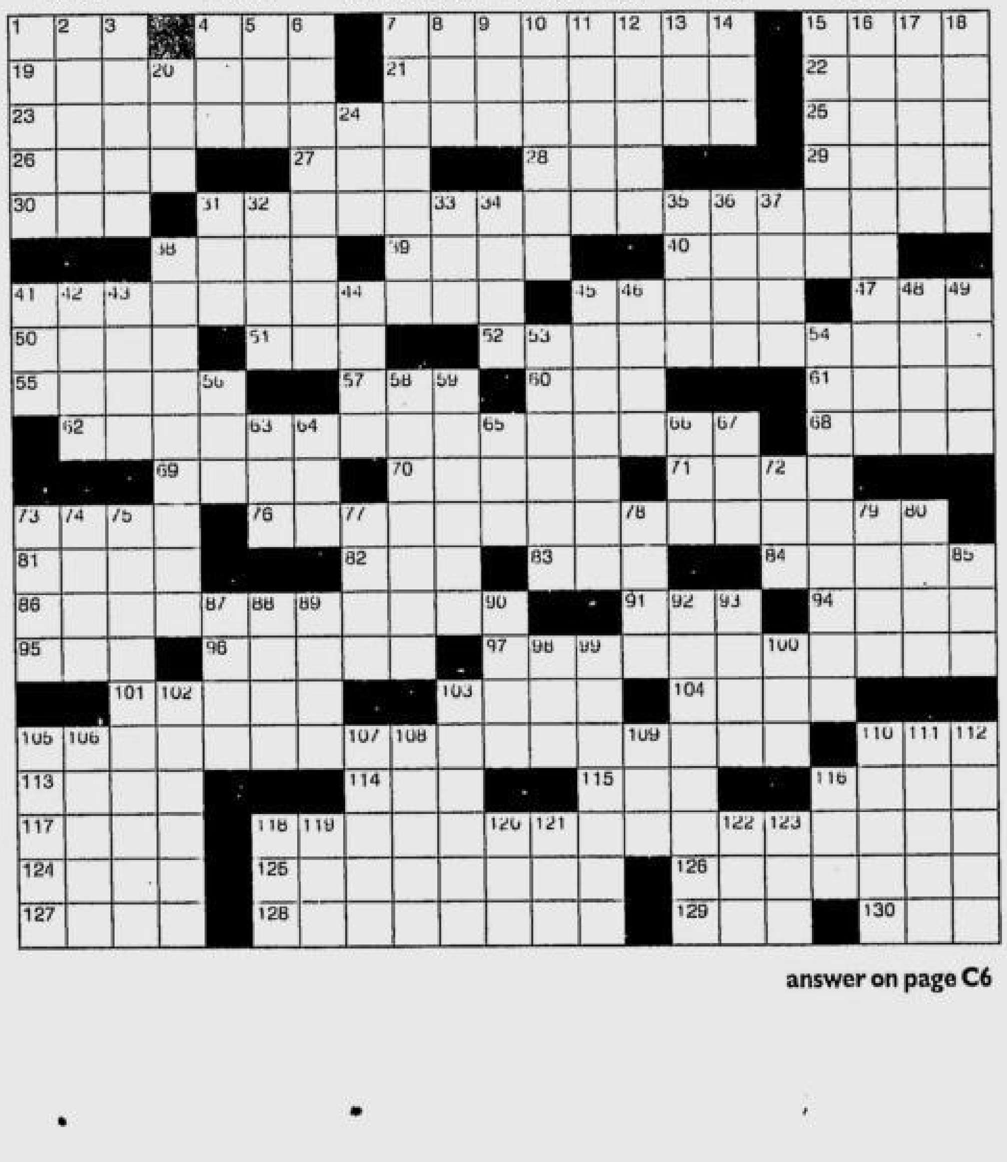
Peso is now in its second year. Originally started by Filipinos at the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the contest is now run by volunteers based here in the Philippines. Unlike other business plan competitions, Peso offers "post-competition" support for winners of previous years; this year, two 2005 finalists (Schyro Water and Bio Enterprise Pilipinas Inc.) are being mentored by the UP Ayala Technology Business Incubator, Peso's partner and sponsor through the Ayala Foundation Inc.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo APPEARANCES

ACROSS
1 In addition
4 Site for experiments
7 1995-2001 Secretary of Agriculture Dan
15 Panache
19 Deductive, as reasoning
21 Cause of a disease
22 Sleuth Wolfe
23 Nook for eating greenish nuts?
25 Tpkes., e.g.
26 Eligible for the draft
27 Rowboat propeller
28 Cambridge sch.
29 — Spumante
30 Teacher's org.
31 Shorthand pro with a wasp wound?
38 Secure a ship
39 10-digit book ID
40 "We — please!"
41 Isaac's son works as a tailor?
45 Big name
47 Good friend
50 Norwegian royal name
51 Big Apple sch.
52 Do a good job diagraming sentences?
55 Be accepted
57 TV maker
60 Grassland
61 Norwegian capital
62 Roman magistrate's table and chairs?
68 Horse hue
69 Vasco da —
70 Hotelier Helmsley
71 Gymnast Korbut
73 Longtime king of Saudi Arabia
76 TV host Ripa who looks great in pictures?
81 Brainchild
82 Brynner of the stage
83 Jet retired in 2003
84 Inventor Howe
86 Sly military leader?
91 Depot: Abbr.
94 Southeast Kansas city
95 LAX stat
96 "It's — bell"
97 Hat worn to the Academy Awards?
101 Of structure as opposed to substance
103 Venus de —
104 Latin "Lo!"
105 Person using forks and knives rebelliously?
110 Former United rival
113 Fill up fully
114 Hack's vehicle
115 Tyke
116 One-liner
117 Over again
118 Things hidden in this puzzle's nine longest answers
124 Spyro — (jazz group)
125 Orly arrival
126 Secreted stuff, as sweat
127 Lenient
128 Entree followers
129 Instant lawn
130 Pt. of SSS

DOWN
1 Hit lightly, as glass
2 Offer a view
3 Whether by land —
4 Mauna —
5 Circle part
6 Occurring every 120 minutes
7 "— Porgie"
8 Inc., abroad
9 A third of IX
10 Scam artists
11 Calvin of fashion
12 Slogan
13 Fed, e.g.
14 "Science Guy" Bill
15 Mesmerized
16 "I pray you're right!"
17 Mountain ridge
18 GI's denial
20 Call — day
24 McKellen of movies
31 Cry audibly
32 — extent (somewhat)
33 Defunct Russ. state
34 Recipe amt.
35 Wind blast
36 Nothing: Fr.
37 Both: Prefix
38 When you might use a U-Haul
41 Casual run
42 Smart- —
43 "Censor" of Rome
44 Surf-'n'- —
45 Canea residents
46 Biblical twin
48 — breve
49 Capital of Rhone
53 Dior dresses
54 Like many reels
56 Top-secret gp.
58 Word after pop or throat
59 Eye ring
63 Field official
64 "Well, — -di-dah!"
65 Yule drink
66 Mythical bird
67 Wapiti
72 "Golly —!"
73 Small flute
74 Just — on the map
75 Lines of verse in six feet
77 — and terminer
78 "— girl!"
79 Safari sight
80 Bush's alma mater
85 Perched
87 Travels restlessly
88 Hollywood's Morales
89 Void
90 Cut of meat
92 Foot levers
93 Rudiments
98 — -mo
99 Partner of mussels
100 Tenth mo.
102 Not round-trip
103 Able to get around
105 Grammar concern
106 Singer Tucker
107 Champagne buckets
108 Tent sites
109 False story
110 Albacore and bluefin
111 Like a 116-Across
112 Altar areas
116 Math proof abbr.
118 Ill-bred man
119 Go fast
120 Train unit
121 Busy insect
122 Prefix with skeleton
123 Mire



answer on page C6

Couple delights Laguna town ...

From page B1

"Despite the competition, we have continued to grow because we have other specialties, and our employees are multi-skilled. They can perform any other tasks aside from their assignments," he notes.

The employees learned to be flexible and work on different tasks.

Joey says they also had to lower their prices.

"To do this, we needed to streamline the production. We maximized the output and we minimized the resources," he adds.

In the bake shop, for instance, Plaza Delights uses equipment that are easy to use and capable of producing well-cooked and tasty bread.

Challenge

Joey adds that he and his wife invest in training to continuously improve the employees' skills.

"Constant upgrading of skills is what the business needs most, especially when the Irri opened a new market for us," he says.

In preparation for the concession with the Irri, Martinez says the group studied foreign dishes and different kinds of pastries.

"Our staff explored different kinds of food in various restaurants. We really had an extensive research," he says.

He remains very much a hands-on manager, taking care of the branch in Pila, while his wife Liza oversees the Irri canteen.

He says the success of Plaza Delights should be attributed to "good opportunities and hard work."

Plaza Delights hopes to expand the family-owned business into an established corporation.

"We are already on that path," Joey says.

HIGHLANDS PRIME latest development. Highlands Prime Inc. (HPI), the high-end leisure property development firm of the SM Group, recently held the first pouring ceremony for the newest coveted weekend address in Tagaytay Highlands, the Woodridge Park (Phase I), scheduled for completion by the end of 2008. The event signifies the official start of the building construction of the log cabin-inspired residential condominium development. The Woodridge Park takes its inspiration from the mountain resorts of the Colorado region. It overlooks the Tagaytay Highlands Golf Course, Laguna Bay and the surrounding mountains. Units come in three, four and five bedrooms. A limited number of luxurious loft units are also available. Photo shows Willy Ocier (HPI vice chair), Antonio Henson (HPI president) and Jerry Tiu (Tagaytay Highlands Club president) during the pouring ceremony.

A decade and a half and still running

By Dennis U. Eroa

NOT JUST A STORE.

This may very well be the battle cry of the Olympic Village Group, an athletic-leisure store trading using the names of Olympic Village, Olympic World, Olympic Gold, Hall of Fame and Olympic Outlet.

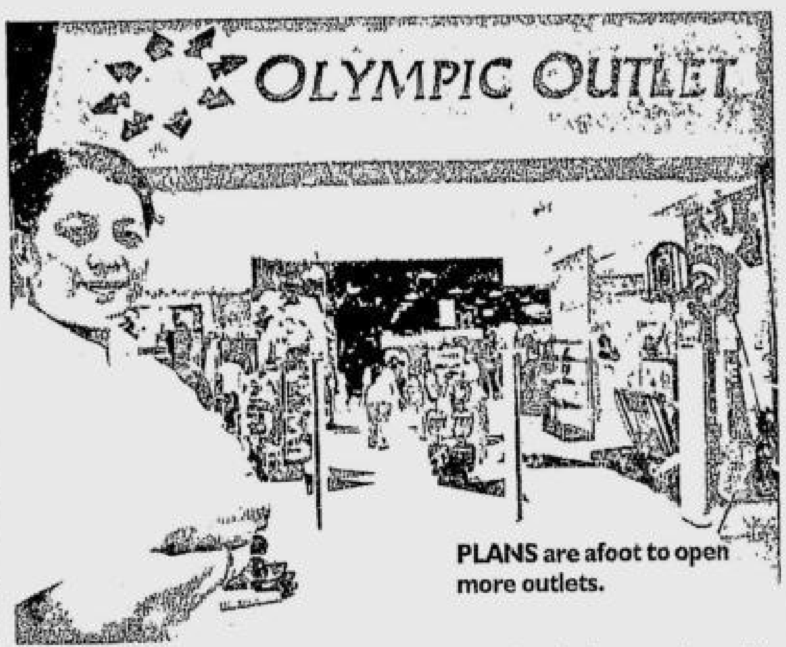
From its first store it opened on Dec. 12, 1991 in Park Square I, Ayala Center in Makati City, Olympic Village's chain of "athleisure" stores mushroomed to 20 including the Olympic Outlet in Robinson's Place Pioneer and SM Southmall which offers bargain pricing year-round.

With no intention of slowing down, the Olympic Village Group is putting its second Olympic World outlet in Ayala Land's Trinoma (Triangle North of Makati). Trinoma targets affluent A & B customers around the area of Quezon City, Marikina, Caloocan and Bulacan, who will no longer have to commute to Makati to enjoy shopping.

Chief executive officer Juanito "Jay" Balmaseda Gervasio, also the president of the De La Salle Alumni Association (DLSAA), admits that feeding the hunger of the sporting public for quality and affordable sporting products isn't easy.

A cum laude graduate of De La Salle University (AB-Economics, BSC-Accounting) in 1973, Gervasio says running an athletic-leisure company is no joke simply because competition is furious and for most of the industry's players, it is a take-no-prisoner mentality.

"This is a very competitive industry. The products that we are selling are also available in malls, department stores, specialty stores, concept stores, etc.. Those products are everywhere," says Gervasio, who holds an MBA from the University of Melbourne.



PLANS are afoot to open more outlets.

Married to the former Ma. Luisa Romana and blessed with three grown-up children, Gervasio also finished an International Senior Managers Program in 1988 from the Harvard Business School.

For their business to succeed, Gervasio believes that customers must always be number one.

"In order for us to make them number one, we must leave no stone unturned in making their shopping memorable and pleasant," Gervasio says, adding that to attain this goal, Olympic Village provides its employees with training in customer service and product knowledge spiced up with incentives to do their best.

Gervasio believes that his Lasallian education influenced greatly his style of management and business philosophy. "I'm really grateful to La Salle for the excellent education it provided me, the right tools to handle this job. Aside from giving me the technical knowledge and expertise, La Salle has given me the proper values and attitude to deal with people fairly, honestly and to be concerned with the welfare of others," Gervasio says. "And of course, I am grateful to my parents for choosing La Salle."

He puts premium on the importance of teamwork which may be traced to his days as one of La Salle's crowd-drawers while playing alongside Mike Bilbao with the basketball team.

"Our mission statement is to raise the youth's awareness of sports and rekindle the enthusiasm for physical activities," Gervasio says.

"Physical challenges and one's situation in life should not hamper the enthusiasm for sports nor diminish the joys of life."

Juan "Johnny" Valdes, vice president for finance and treasury of the DLSAA, describes Gervasio as meticulous and somebody who doesn't want to compromise quality.

"Jay's a hands-on manager. He will even put the dot on the I if he has to," says Valdes, owner of the global company Johnny Air Cargo.

Gervasio says that keeping track of day-to-day operations of all the stores is quite difficult. "But the structure and highly competent managers are in place to keep the operation smooth and successful," explains Gervasio.

Encouraged by the results of the Park Square I store, a second store was opened at SM Megamall middle of the following year.

Again, the Megamall outlet proved to be a hit. The third Olympic Village was opened in 1993 at SM City, North Edsa, before the group made its first foray outside Metro Manila by opening an outlet at the Ayala Center in Cebu. The fifth and sixth stores were located at Ayala Town Center and Isetann Cinerama Complex.

In December 1996, Sta. Lucia Grand Mall became the site of another Olympic Village store and two more were added the following year—Robinson's Bacolod and Robinson's Galleria. The outlet in Galleria became the first of the large store formats spanning over 430 square meters and is well-known to fans as Olympic Gold.

Hall of Fame opened at the Filinvest Supermall in Alabang, followed by a store at Robinson's Place in Imus, Cavite, and another at the Robinson's Place Ermita on September 2000.

It opened 12 stores in nine years and continued to expand until today's 20 outlets.

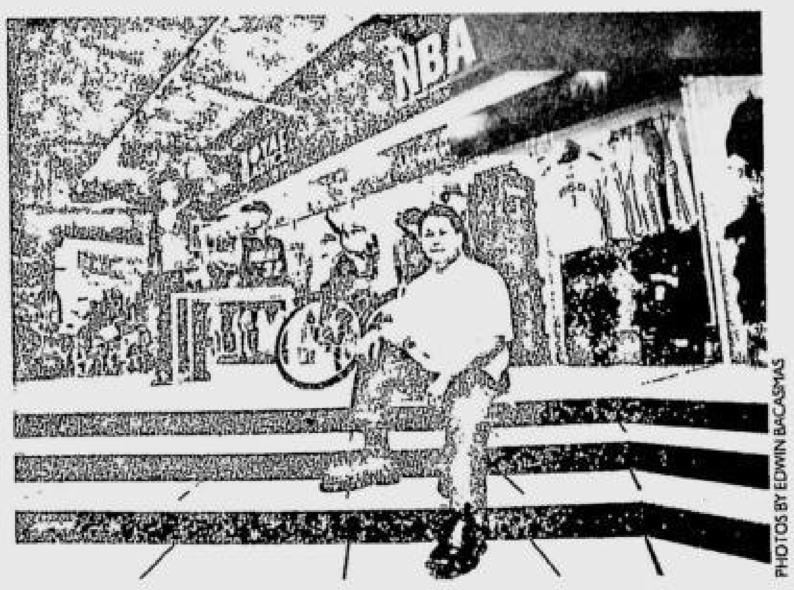
Gervasio says Olympic Gold was the first to feature interactive areas inside the store where customers can shoot hoops in its half-court.

"This is a welcome break for customers. It allowed them not only the chance to break sweat but also to feel the footwear and other practice gear before buying," Gervasio said.

Not only a half-court can be found at the Olympic World in Alabang Town Center. The store also features Mt. Olympus, a 25-footer in-store climbing wall, the first indoor climbing facility in a retail environment.

There are also sports museum, shoot-out gallery, and many more come-ons for Olympic Village habitues, making the retail landscape doubly exciting.

"Olympic Village attributes its success to the loyalty of its customers. Many of them came here through their formative years and into parenthood. They even bring with them a new generation of customers. It is but proper that they always get their money's worth and more," Gervasio concludes.



PHOTOS BY EDWIN BACASMAS

JAY Gervacio, chief executive officer of Olympic Village at Olympic outlet in Robinsons Place, Pioneer Street, Mandaluyong City.

Early bird discount for AIM Asian Business Conference

THE ASIAN INSTITUTE OF Management and the Alumni Association of the Asian Institute of Management are hosting the Asian Business Conference and Trade Show on March 1, 2007 at the Rizal Ballroom of Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

With the theme "New AIM for a New Asia: Unlocking New Opportunities," the Asian Business Conference will bring together movers and shakers in Asian Business to share best practices and maximize new Asian opportunities.

The speakers include Washington Sycip, Dato Paduka Timothy Ong Teck Mong, Ahmad Harji Bin Abdul Hamid, Dr. Arifin Siregar, Dr. Narayanan Murthy, Dr. Euh Yoon Dae, Ricardo Pascua, Datuk Ir. (Dr.) Mohd Anas Hj. Modh Nor and AIM President Francis Estrada.

Other highlights of the Asian Business Conference is the Asian Bazaar from February 26-March 02, 2007 at the Asian Institute of Management and a the Asian Film Festival. Conference partners are PLDT and SMART. Partners include the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippine Airlines, Petron Corp. and Apple Printers

Early birds can enjoy a 15 percent discount for individual registration and 20 percent for groups (minimum of 10 persons), if they register before Jan. 31, 2007.

For more information, please call 750-6575, 892-4011 (local 2103-06) or e-mail abcconference@aim.edu or log on to www.aimforasia.com

New global initiative for coffee

NESCAFÉ, ONE OF THE WORLD'S leading coffee brand, recently joined the newly established global Common Code for the Coffee Community, or 4C, a global initiative that seeks to address the social, environmental and economic issues involving the coffee industry.

"Nescafe has taken it upon itself to ensure that it adopts practices and join initiatives that will not only be beneficial to the company, but to all stakeholders involved in coffee production as well," says Bruno Olierhoek, Nestle Philippines Inc.'s business executive manager for the coffee business unit.

The 4C association counts 40 stakeholders in coffee production, trade and industry, civil society, public organizations and individuals among its members. It is an independent, open and nonprofit membership association that is based on this multi-stakeholder participation.

Its website, www.sustainablecoffee.net, outlines its mission as the following: "The efficient production and processing of coffee, combined with respect for the social and environmental conditions of its production, form the basis for improving the situation of coffee growers and workers worldwide."

4C's MISSION is to improve the lives of coffee growers and workers worldwide.

This is done through programs that are "designed to optimize transparency and traceability along the whole coffee chain and to increase the awareness of individual responsibilities in the production, processing and trading of coffee."

4C-initiated projects have already been done in the coffee-producing countries of Colombia, Brazil, Guatemala and Ethiopia. Ongoing products are also being done in El Salvador, Ethiopia, Honduras and Vietnam.

Code of conduct

The initiatives are undertaken to prepare the global coffee industry for increasing consumer demand as well as the quality of coffee products, its production and its trading methods.

In line with its mission, the members of the 4C association came up with a code of conduct that outlines the practices it will undertake to ensure sustainability in coffee production, post-harvest processing and trading.

It covers 30 social, environmental and economic principles for all the people involved in the coffee supply chain. These include the farmers, plantation owners, coffee product manufacturers, exporters and traders, among others.

Nescafe has undertaken, in line with the code of conduct, the coffee-based sustainable farming system (CBSFS), which helps farmers increase their income by allowing the planting of other crops alongside coffee.

The firm has been buying green coffee from coffee farmers for over 20 years. In 1986, it officially established satellite buying stations in key coffee-producing areas around the country including Davao, Iloilo, Isabela, Zamboanga, Cotabato, Agusan del Sur, Palawan, Tuguegarao, Solano, Bacolod, Bohol, Calamba, Alabang and Cavite.

The strong woman behind the Antonio brothers

From page B4

WITH South of Market as background

ing and determine how we can adopt these to the local setting."

"We bring home. Filipinize it. We are all exposed so we share the same opinion, he adds.

"At the end of the day, it is command responsibility—whether you are over budget or you did not hit the targets," says the 30-year-old finance head.

But the two emphasize that everything relies on the "vision of dad" who remains the "captain of the ship."

The two say their father Jose now spends most of his time in deal making, pricing, planning, and forging business partnerships; while leaving day to day operations to them.

Real estate today

After 20 years in the business, the Century group has diverse operations that include real estate construction and development under the Meridien Development Group Inc.; Century Communities is into real estate sales and marketing organization; Centuries Properties Management Inc. provides management services to commercial and residential properties.

Marco acknowledges real estate cycles but points out that each cycle is getting bigger and longer and that the current boom is just in the initial stages.

What is significant though, and which makes the current boom different from the past booms, is the availability of long-term financing.

"Today you have single digit loans and 20-year terms. It's a different paradigm shift for the local market. I feel the cycle will have stronger legs," he says.

Jigger cites that in the '96 boom they were selling two to three units a day. Today he says they sell up to 10.

Overseas Filipinos of course play a major role in the sales.

He adds that the population is a growing one with several players coming along developing property.

Stratified diversification

"The key is affordability, " Jigger says.

For the group, the strategy has been to base development by "income stratified diversification." They have developments that range from P2 million a unit to P15 million.

Marco points out that with available financing, amortization can amount to only P20,000 a month, so "why rent when you can buy?"

Brokers who deal with the brothers acknowledge the siblings' humility who sometimes even deal directly with buyers.

The two acknowledged that despite the wealth and luxury they were born into, they were able to keep their feet planted on the ground largely due to their mother's direct supervision and their Catholic upbringing.

Jigger says the Catholic influence and the teachings at Xavier inspired him to be a priest but was dissuaded by his parents who told him he can help more people by going into business.

It was also his mother who insisted that the kids pursue education abroad.

"She also taught us proper ethics and values. She dedicated her life to her kids when we were growing up," says Jigger.

He adds that the way their parents behaved when they were growing up also had an influence in how they acted amid wealth. "They did not splurge on a new Porsche and even if dad did not have to work anymore since ten years ago, he still does ..."

"The discipline they taught us—about how often we go out," adds Marco.

The two face their biggest challenge with the former International School project which will be made into a residential-commercialand retail area. They are tapping the architects behind the Bellagio in Las Vegas who also did the Olympic Village in LA.

But the market knows the two will succeed, together with their team.

THREE GENERATIONS. Marco, Jose, Jigger and lolo Ramon

The strong *woman* behind the Antonio brothers

Jigger and Marco talk about working with dad and lolo and mom's influence

MARCO

y Margie Quimpo-Espino

THE BRAINS OF the Antonio brothers match the towering structures their company has been building all over the metropolis the past few years.

John Victor or Jigger and Jose Marco are the elder two of the four sons of Jose E.B. Antionio, the man behind Century Properties Inc. which owns real estate projects like Essensa East Forbes, the first $1 million (per unit) development, South of Market, Grand Soho Makati, and what will be their biggest project—the development of the 4.8 hectare former home of the International School Manila in Makati City, which the firm bought for P1.43 billion.

Those who are critical of SOBs (sons of bosses) who immediately get plum posts in Daddy's or Mommy's company are not likely to question the brothers' appointments as chief operating officer and chief finance officer respectively of the Century Properties Group.

Jigger, the elder one graduated magna cum laude with a degree in Marketing from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and then proceeded to pursue his MBA at the Wharton Business School. Marco also went to the same school and graduated summa cum laude with a degree in BS in Economics - Dual Major in Finance and Entrepreneurial Management. He also pursued his MBA at Wharton.

HILDA

Two younger brothers, Robbie and Carlo are in the US working. Both were also educated abroad.

Jigger and Marco attribute their achievements to their mother.

"My mom breathed down our necks. She even learned Chinese to be able to teach us (the two studied at Xavier School where Chinese is taught)," recalls Marco.

Hilda Antonio was a full time mom whom her kids say dedicated her life to taking care of the children.

The Antonio brothers are not the only interesting human asset of Century Properties—unknown to many it is one of the few firms today which is run by members of three generations. But it was not the first generation who started as is the usual story. It was the second, who eventually tapped the expertise of the first generation.

Jose Antonio, the man behind Century properties started his career as a stockbroker and then went into management consultancy. A week before the EDSA Revolution in 1986, he set up Century Properties, as a management and marketing firm.

Son Jigger says his dad saw "the real estate industry was fragmented and not professional. He saw a niche for sales and property development."

Century Properties initially sold for property developers until it developed its own property.

As the firm, which started with only six people, grew, Jose "pirated" his father, Ramon (not the architect) who was a banker, to handle human resources.

Jose's concept then was to find people who believed in his vision and whom he could trust. He got his father because Ramon communicates well with people and is steeped with values.

JIGGER

The belief from the start was to run a company with professionalism, create loyalty among employees and care for them.

Now in his 70s, Lolo Ramon is still involved in the company and attends meetings regularly.

The Century Group executive committee meets regularly from the chair, president, CFO, COO, chief marketing officer and EVP.

Although family members are involved, Jigger is quick to point that each member believes every opinion expressed has to have merits. "We don't just shoot off the hip. We have actual value added statements."

He adds that, "we uncannily share the same wave length."

Marco also says that "we believe in adopting the best practices. We look outside and we see what the best companies are do-

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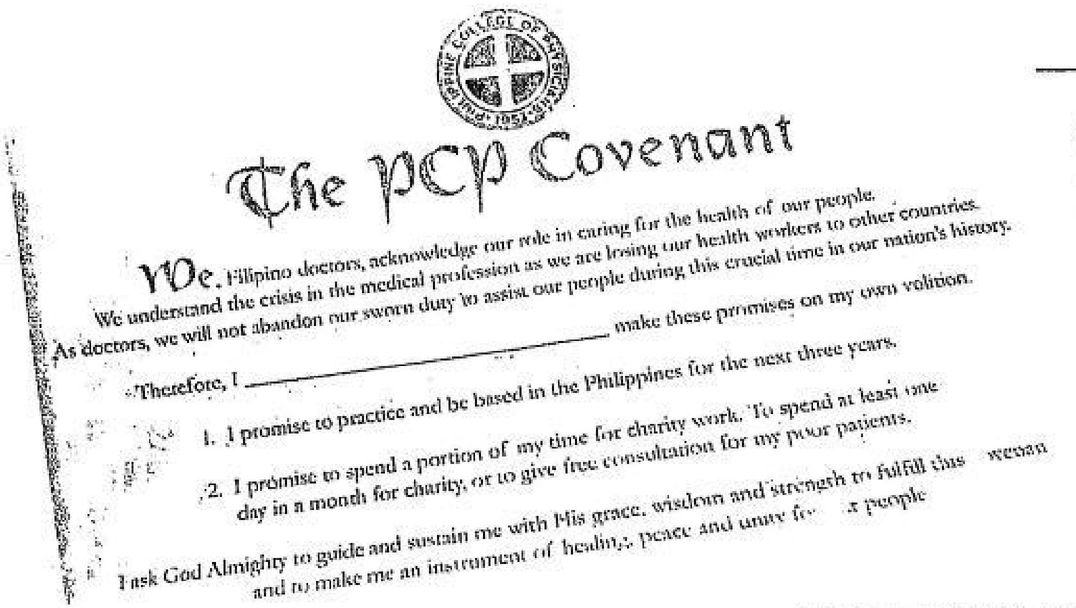

The pCp Covenant

We, Filipino doctors, acknowledge our role in caring for the health of our people.
We understand the crisis in the medical profession as we are losing our health workers to other countries.
As doctors, we will not abandon our sworn duty to assist our people during this crucial time in our nation's history.

Therefore, I ______________________ make these promises on my own volition.

1. I promise to practice and be based in the Philippines for the next three years.
2. I promise to spend a portion of my time for charity work. To spend at least one day in a month for charity, or to give free consultation for my poor patients.

I ask God Almighty to guide and sustain me with His grace, wisdom and strength to fulfill this [illegible] and to make me an instrument of healing, peace and unity f[illegible] people

Cardiologist Willie Ong has spent his own money for a campaign to stem the brain drain and to motivate medical students to practice in the country

A doctor's candid Rx

By Anne A. Jambora

RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY, America is still looked upon as the land of opportunities. Small wonder, then, that when the US reopened its gates to medical professionals from the world over, some 3,000 Filipinos responded by trying their luck there.

Who could blame them? In the Philippines, a resident doctor, expected to work a 24-hour shift, is paid a mere P15,000-P20,000 a month. Doctors abroad can rake up some P5 million a year. For many young hopefuls then, the decision to migrate is a no-brainer.

According to the Philippine Medical Association, each year 2,000 doctors leave the country to work abroad; worse, 3,000 Filipino doctors work as nurses overseas. The Philippines, in fact, is the second largest source of doctors for overseas hospitals. Out of the 100,000 registered doctors in the country, 30,000 have already left for good.

In the University of the Philippines-Manila alone, says cardiologist Willie Ong, 90-95 percent of medical graduates go abroad. But it was medical board topnotcher Elmer Jacinto's decision to accept a nursing job in the US that affected the idealistic Ong most.

Pact

Together with the Philippine College of Physicians, Ong created the Doctor's Covenant in 2004, which sought the signatures of doctors who would volunteer to stay put in the country for three years before moving on to greener pastures.

He found inspiration from a passage in the Bible as possible solution to the problem —"Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine" (Exodus 19:5).

Ong managed to get 1,800 signatures out of the 4,000 doctors who attended the national convention. Senior doctors made up about 70-80 percent of the signatories. These were the doctors who were not likely to leave the country at all, he says.

Ong afterward became the subject of controversy, with some doctors complaining they were pressured to sign the covenant. There were also fears Ong would convince the government to make the covenant a regulation.

Thus, it became impossible to get more signatures.

Ong decided to put aside the project and he again sought God's will. In 2005 he established the Movement of Idealistic and Nationalistic Doctors (Mind). No, this is not a communist group, he says, but an organization bent on instilling in young minds the virtues and advantages of practicing medicine in the country.

He says 80-90 percent of medical students have expressed their earnest desire to help the country after graduation, but the harsh reality check begins when they work in hospitals. Inevitably, many lose hope and change their minds.

He has since given lectures to 30 medical schools and held biannual Mind meetings each year. During his lectures he would discuss the nation's problems such as low health budget and the brain drain. He would then deliver his inspirational talk.

A DOCTOR'S/ C2

DOCTORS Willie and Lizza Ong

PHOTOS JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

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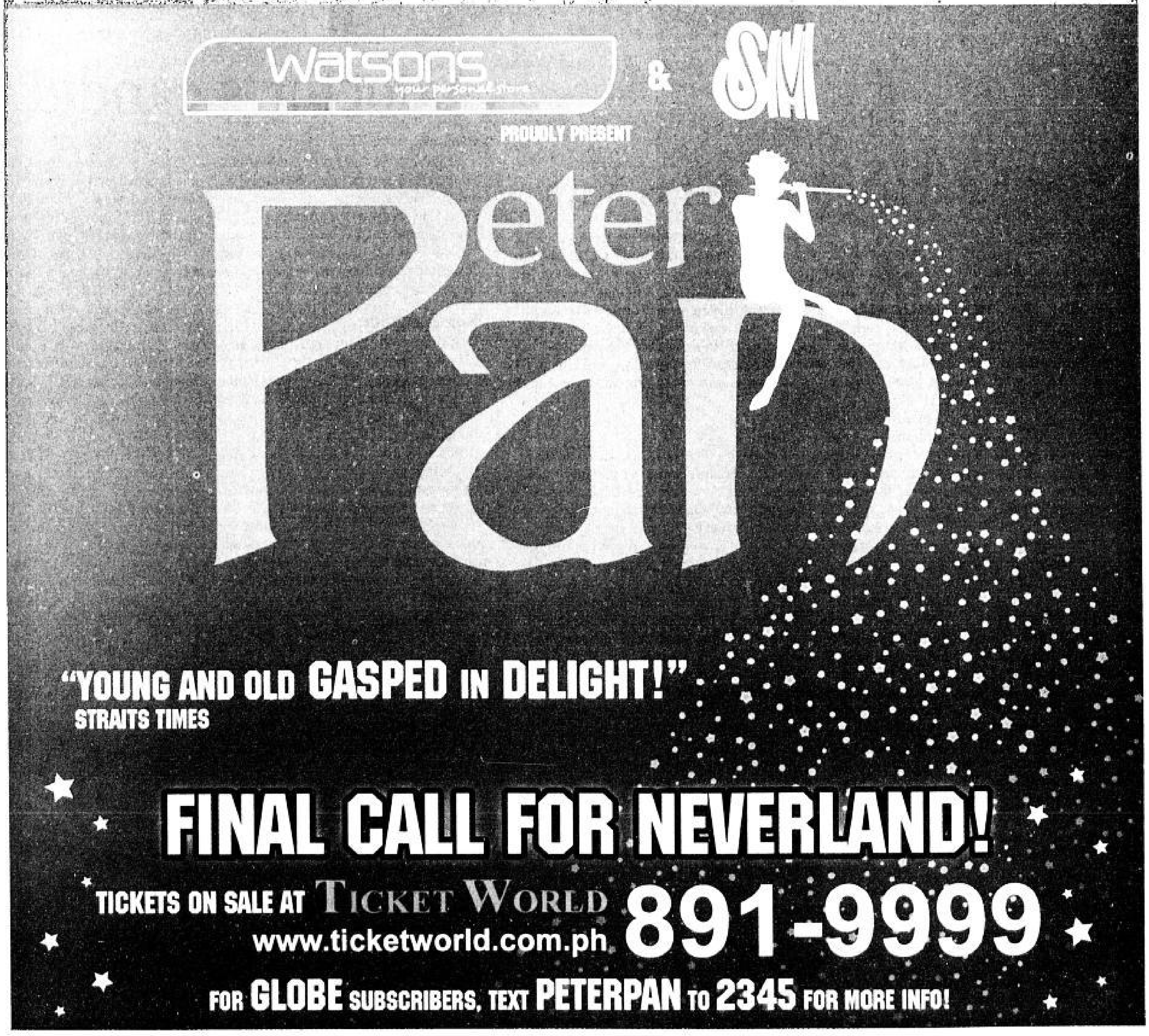

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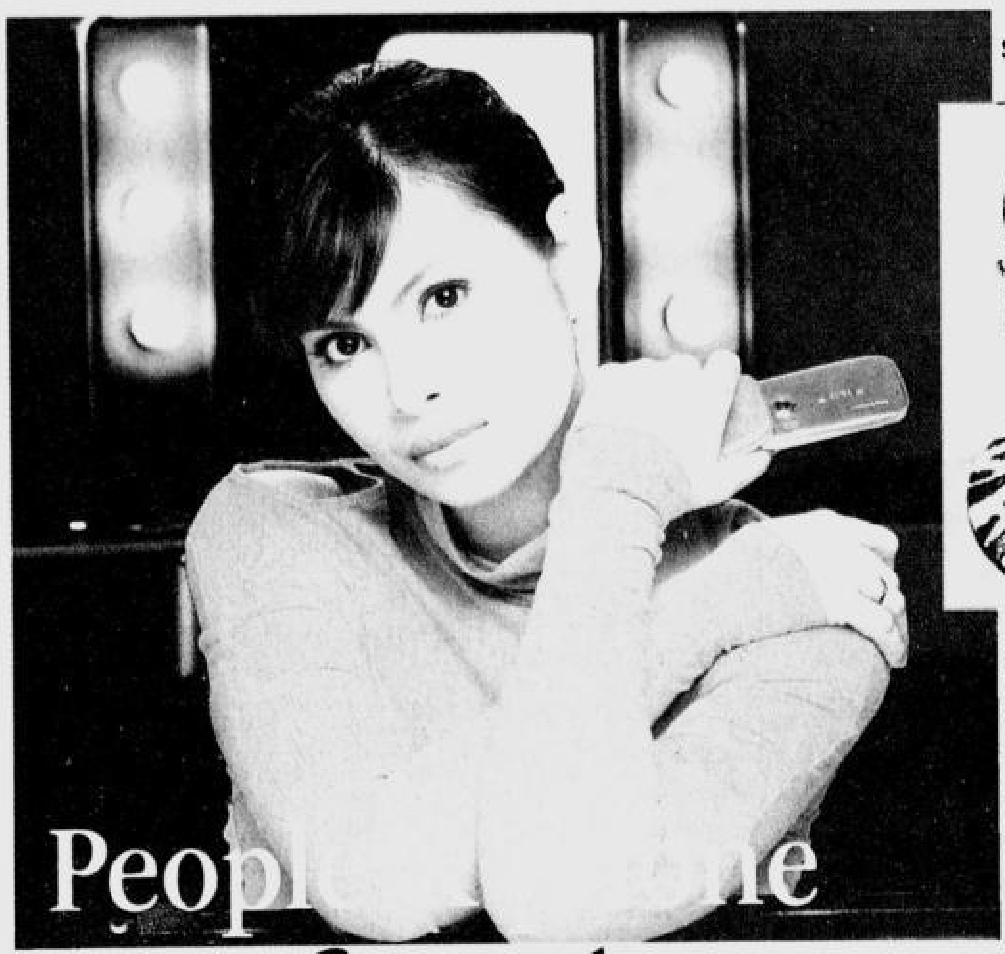


ABBYGALE Arenas-de Leon completed the transition from a beauty queen to being a makeup artist and image consultant who makes others, as the model above, look and feel beautiful.

JOAN Bitagcol enjoys capturing human emotions through photographs, like the one below.

Peop[illegible]ne of style & substance

ABBYGALE ARENAS-DE LEON, ILLAC Diaz and Joan Bitagcol have all tried their hands at modeling. Needless to say, they have style but, more important, their passions, work ethics and accomplishments provide substance to their lives.

Arenas-de Leon, an in-demand makeup artist and image consultant, entered the fashion and beauty industry at 17 by winning in the Philippine competition for the Ford Supermodel of the World. That launched for her a lucrative modeling career in New York City. In 1997, she was named Bb. Pilipinas-Universe.

Arenas-de Leon used her experience in the beauty business to launch another career. She studied to acquire the skills that transformed her from a beauty queen to a professional whose business was to make others look and feel beautiful.

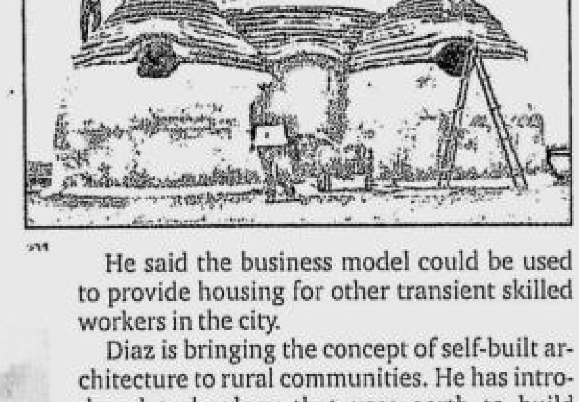
Despite the shoots, weddings and lectures, she finds time to be a wife and mom. Arenas-de Leon feels fulfilled when she is able to help others gain confidence and self-esteem, share in important occasions that may serve as turning points in other people's lives, and make someone feel beautiful inside and out.

Social entrepreneur

Social entrepreneur Illac Diaz believes that "the purest form of charity is making yourself obsolete." Projects, he says, should survive without the person who started it.

Diaz's most recognizable project, so far, is the seafarers' center at the Port area in Intramuros. The shelter's work-for-stay policy gave seafarers a decent place to live. They paid for the accommodation by working in the foundation's ink and bottled water stations. Diaz resorted to self-build architecture for the center to reduce cost.

ILLAC Diaz builds schools and other public structures using earth and other local, sustainable materials.



He said the business model could be used to provide housing for other transient skilled workers in the city.

Diaz is bringing the concept of self-built architecture to rural communities. He has introduced technology that uses earth to build public facilities such as schools and clinics. The material is local, sustainable and does not have to be transported.

Behind the camera

Joan Bitagcol, the small-town girl and former factory worker, has become the "It" girl in the fickle world of fashion. From the Body Shots competition, she got her first major break in Inno Sotto's Fashion Watch and followed this up with modeling for some of the country's top designers.

Bitagcol valued being among talented individuals. Trying to emulate them and drawing inspiration from their creativity, she studied photography. She has since become an in-demand photographer. Her work consistently shows a firm connection with reality.

Sleek and shimmering

The seamless combination of style and substance, as personified by Arenas-de Leon, Diaz and Bitagcol, is what mobile phone maker Sony Ericsson seeks for its products and it is no wonder that its latest offering, the Sony Ericsson Z610i, has an innovative sleek exterior that opens to a wealth of admirable characteristics.

Bitagcol likes the two-megapixel camera, aside from the sleek exterior. "Besides being a joy to hold, the phone also has a very reliable digital camera and has enough memory space for my photos."

Diaz says the broadband-speed 3G connectivity is just what he needs especially on his frequent foreign trips. "I can be constantly in touch while I travel. Plus, the Z610i helps me keep up with my daily tasks."

The concealed external display that lights up when there is a call or SMS/MMS, is what Arenas-de Leon likes. "I can instantly identify who is trying to contact me."

Inspired by nature, the Sony Ericsson Z610i's shimmering mirror finish simulates the ocean's calm surface. The Z610i is available in Luster Black, Rose Pink and Airy Blue.

EMILY'S POST
Emily Marcelo

Husband is too set in his ways

DEAR EMILY,

I am 46 years old and employed as manager in a company. I've been married for 24 years to a seaman and we have three lovely girls, all single and working.

I would like to know if I am right in holding on to my one-sided marriage. I feel my husband just loves himself. I love him and I long for his love, attention and intimacy even without sex.

He only touches me when we have our weekly sex. I am not complaining about that. Most of the time, he moves away when I try to put my arm around him when we're sleeping. He gives the excuse that it is too hot.

I take care of myself. I exercise and play badminton, while he only watches television, reads newspapers and answer puzzles the whole day even on weekends when I have to go to the market, cook and clean the house.

He never goes to the dentist for maintenance, except for extractions and dentures, so he doesn't smell that good. He is so confident of his good looks but he has a paunch. He used to join me in badminton but now he'd rather stay at home.

He takes care of the laundry and the cooking if we don't have a maid. When I complained that I worked 12 hours, five to six days a week, and still had to work at home on weekends, he told me it's my fault that I did not train my girls to help in the house.

My husband used to be a womanizer, and had "victims" even in our own house—the maids, my younger sister—and some neighbors, not to mention girls in every port.

We fought about this and I even got physically and emotionally bruised but I decided to stay. I know I am still attractive, because other guys flirt with me and I get invitations from them. But I have remained with him because I love him.

But love is not enough. I have bills to pay, a car that has to be replaced, a house that's falling apart. I need security in our old age. I don't want to rely on my three daughters. I have my life insurance and memorial lot, just in case.

I am earning well but I plan to go abroad so he can work where no college degree is needed. He only finished high school, you see. He cannot make up his mind whether to leave or not because he enjoys his life in the Philippines so much.

He told me he would leave me if I insisted on going abroad. We cannot even talk sensibly because he says discussions are corny and dramatic and he hates them.

A.U.

If your umbilical cord is not exactly welded to this great husband of yours, why not just go your own way, do what you are doing and allow him as much latitude to turn his brain to mush and go to seed?

Love him if you must, but do not expect him to change in the way that you want him to. He probably is following a drummer so different from yours that your worlds have become as far apart as north and south.

It would take an upheaval of some sort to shake him out of this apathetic state. He has made his choice and no amount of drama can change him. He has to pull himself together—by himself—and prove his manhood to himself.

Nobody else can.

You are successful, you are fulfilled, so let it be. Instead of banging your head on the wall because of what life has dealt you, start thinking positive thoughts and thank the heavens for your little successes.

You are still young and attractive and there is a whole wide world to explore. Do not let this foolish tub of lard pull you down. Allow some breathing space between you two and hope that the lull snaps him out of his lethargy.

Give him as much space, as you possibly can, to recover what is left of his addled brain. If he is not physically rotting yet to offend the noses of the whole household, just try to keep out of his way.

Do not nag. Do not fret. Do not mind him. Change may still be possible. That is how life unfolds sometimes.

(E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to Inquirer. Listen to Ms. Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.)

A doctor's candid prescription

From page C1

Ong says he enjoys the meetings, especially since he is able to talk directly with students after each session. He even gives them his cell phone number in case they need advice. And the students do call, asking for advice on topics ranging from the mundane to professional.

Survival guide

Although the campaign takes a significant amount of his time, Ong is not complaining. He believes it is his calling to help future Filipino doctors acquire a clearer picture or perception of reality.

His new book, "Survival Guide for Doctors," to be released soon, has been inspired by his encounters with students. The book gives advice on how to pass the board exam, how to boost memory, finding a niche, tips on hospital-application interviews, when to get married, how to climb the corporate ladder faster, where to train, how much they will be paid, among other things.

"This is a better approach since I get to be directly involved with students," Ong says. "Who knows, my mission of goodwill might somehow rub off on some of them?"

Ong does his lectures, charity and advocacy work for free. (The first Mind meeting cost him P130,000 alone.)

He and his wife, Liza, also a doctor, have taken the reins of the Pasay Filipino-Chinese Charity Health Center, established by Willie's father, businessman Co Tec Tai, 15 years ago. They set aside 50 percent of their earnings for their projects. Both also give away at least P50,000 worth of medicines to the poor each month.

Although the couple has lost P700,000 for producing the show "Doc Willie and Liza" on RJTV, the rewards of charity work are immeasurable, Ong says.

"If you want to go up, always help people and they will help you in return. We do worry sometimes about our financial losses—we have two children—but after a while we manage to save up. When you do God's will, He will always find a way for you to fulfill that mission," Ong said.

This month the couple launched another TV show, "Makabayang Duktor," which goes on air every Saturday, 10:30-11 a.m., on NBN 4. Boy Abunda, who trained the couple in TV staging, conceptualized the show and hosts it—for free. On its first season, 30 indigent families were given free medical aid.

And what of the Covenant?

He'll return to it in God's time, Ong says. In fact, his vision is for the covenant to become worldwide—doctors promising to help the poor in their respective countries, either through a website or TV.

"Sometimes God leads you to do something, such as the Doctor's Covenant, so you can get somewhere else, such as Mind and the new TV show," Ong says.

E-mail ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

New trendy line

FESTIVE AND BEJEWELED ARE THE operative terms for Shopwise's newest clothing collection.

Designer Malu Fernandez collaborated with the retail giant to craft chic, funky clothes that are flexible enough so as to fit the needs and preferences of individuals from different ages and with different budgets.

"I don't believe you have to spend a lot of money to look good," Fernandez said. "At Shopwise, customers can get stylish clothes anywhere from P99 to P999."

The multi-tasking pieces can be adapted to a variety of looks. Dress bejeweled and jewel-toned tops down by pairing them with fashion staples like jeans and strappy sandals for a casual get-up.

Or wear the tops by pairing them with dark-colored, well-cut slacks or skirts for a more formal but still upbeat style.

Aside from the jewel collection and key holiday pieces, Shopwise also presents a contemporary line of clothes, done in knits, taffeta, wovens, brocade and chiffon.

The line covers seven themes: urban-chic city pieces great for the boardroom; army gear that strikes just the right balance between tough and chic; striped essentials that never go out of style; eye-catching Retro outfits; flirty, feminine Prairie; disco diva; and smart day wear.

FLIRTY, feminine Prairie for the country girl in you. Exclusively available only at Shopwise.

SMART daywear that will keep you comfy while you Shop. Exclusively available only at Shopwise.

PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Darang

17 Bicolanos to get awards

RISING ABOVE THE TRAGEDY in November when "Reming" devastated Bicol, especially Albay, the Diocese of Masbate and the Faithful Heroes' Shining Times, Inc. are ready to give the first *"Orgullo kan Bikol"* Awards at 6:30 p.m., Feb. 8, at the Manila Hotel Centennial Room.

Orgullo in Bicol means pride. The recipients, mostly government officials, are Bicol's pride.

Jose Cardinal Sanchez, who is from Catanduanes, was for many years prefect of the Congregation of the Clergy in Rome. Vicente Madrigal, father of Doña Consuelo "Chito" Madrigal-Collantes, was from Albay. Doña Chito runs a foundation under her name at the Ateneo de Naga.

Maria "Nini" Ravanilla, tourism director of Region 5, is helping Tony Medina, president of Faithful Heroes, with the CD documentation of Bicol that will be shown by Tony's son Anwar during the dinner event.

Aside from Cardinal Sanchez (religious) and Doña Chito (philanthropy in education), other recipients are Justice Leonardo A. Quisumbing, Masbate (judiciary); Senator Joker Arroyo, Camarines Sur (Senate); Congressman Luis Villafuerte Sr., Camarines Sur (legislation); Dr. Patricio L. Lim, Masbate (business entrepreneurship); Undersecretary Gabriel de Asis Cordoba, Camarines Norte (government service & youth); Loida Nicolas-Lewis, Sorsogon (international understanding); actor Eddie Garcia, Sorsogon (movie/films); Lt. Gen. Salvador Mison, Camarines Sur (government & military service); Dr. Justino Arboleda, Albay (service & technology); Mayor Jess Robredo, Naga City (local government service); and PEZA Director General Lilia de Lima, Iriga City (government service, investments, trade & industry).

Posthumous awards will go to Col. Bonny Serrano, Masbate (military service); Felix N. Imperial. Jr., Camarines Norte (architecture); Prof. Emerito Espinas, Albay (literature & arts); and Ambassador Leandro Verceles Sr., Catanduanes (government service).

The organizing committee started the project six months ago. Members of the committee are Masbate Bishop Joel Baylon, former OIC Masbate Vice Governor Antonio Aguilar Medina, Rapid Steel Company president Jose Arollado, Lydia Valencia Monfort, Raul Quisumbing Jr., former Masbate provincial administrator Daniel Valenzuela and lawyer Nelson Clemente, legal consultant.

A special Valentine concert of opera and love songs will be presented by tenor Frankie Aseniero and soprano Deeda Barretto. The Virtuoso Choir of the St. Francis of Assisi Church in Naga will also sing.

Emcees are television host Cory Quirino, advertising executive Bobby Caballero and Bicolano Junie Palencia. For tickets, text 0906-2283750 or 0917-8242925.

Singing priests

Fifteen singing priests performed at the San Carlos Seminary Auditorium last weekend to raise funds for badly damaged churches in the Archdiocese of Nueva Caceres. The replica image of our Lady of Peñafrancia was brought here for the concert.

To help, please make checks payable to the Archdiocese of Nueva Caceres and send to the office of the Oeconumus c/o the Archbishop's Residence, Naga City or deposit to Metrobank account no. 247-3-24750976.

Relic

The diocese of Essen in Germany donated a relic of the Holy Cross to the Monasterio de Tarlac. The chapel in the hills of San Jose, Tarlac will be blessed at 10 a.m., Jan. 30.

Papal Nuncio Fernando Filoni will officiate in the Holy Mass and blessing, together with Tarlac Bishop Florentino Cinenze. Fr. Archie Cortez, prior of the Servants of the Risen Christ monastic community and other priests will concelebrate.

Procession

At least 200 *carrozas* will join in the procession at 3 p.m. today from Philtrade to the Quirino Grandstand. It will include the images of *Sto. Ñino de la Paz* of Louie and Mellie Ablaza, *Sto. Ñino de Baliwag* of Victoria Santiago Tengco, *Sto. Niño de Atocha* that belonged to the late Teodora Hans, and *Sto. Niño Emperador* of Imelda Cojuangco.

Palo Archbishop Emeritus Pedro Dean opened the exhibit, together with Louie and Mellie Ablaza, Charina Ablaza-Syquia, PNB executive Cielo Macapagal-Salgado, Vicky Magadia, Grace Jose, Nene Aguinaldo, Allan Tengco, among others.

This is the 28th year that the Congregacion del Santissimo Nombre del Niño Jesus has held the exhibit and procession.

Anniversary

The God Loves Catholic Prayer Community marks its 16th anniversary today with Holy Mass and agape at 2 p.m. at No. 84 10th St., New Manila.

CD

Dr. Bob N. Aquino, a dentist, has produced the first Holy Face CD album, "Sail on…His Most Holy Face." Featured artists are Jose Mari Chan, Hajji Alejandro, Robert Sena, Isay alvarez, Paolo Santos and Cris Villonco. Ariel Rivera, Isabel Granada and The Madrigal Singers performed "O Sacred Heart Surrounded," "Hail to the Holy Face" and "Your Miracle Love," respectively. Proceeds will be used for the reproduction of 30" x 40" portraits of the Holy Face to be given to churches. Text Dr. Aquino at 0919-6036498.

SENATOR Joker Arroyo from Baao, Camarines Sur

DOÑA Consuelo "Chito" Madrigal-Collantes from Albay

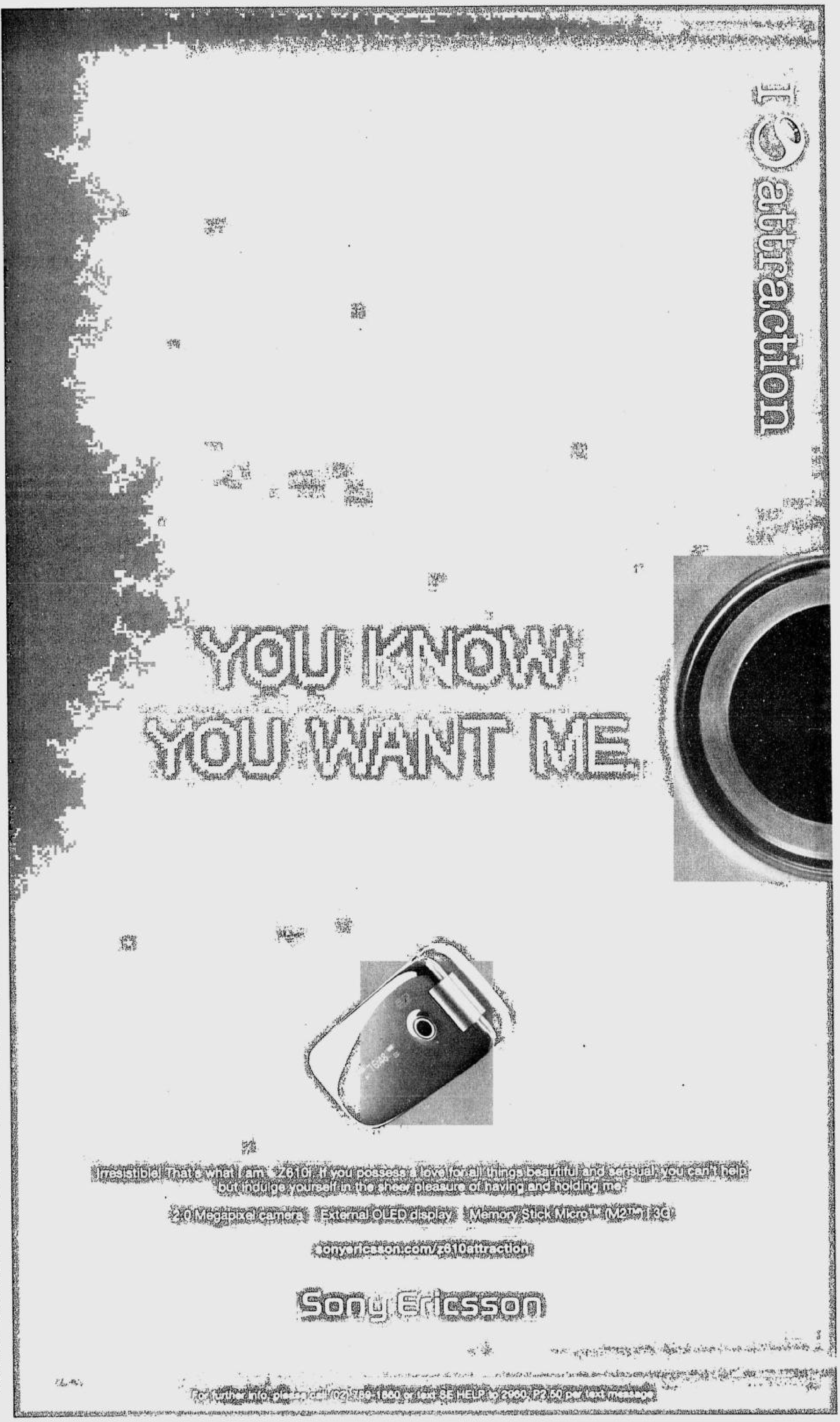
PALO Archbishop Emeritus Pedro Dean opens the Sto. Niño exhibit with Louie Ablaza, Charina Ablaza-Syquia, Mellie Ablaza, PNB executive Chelo Macapagal-Salgado and Vicky Magadia.

Pilgrimage

Tac Tours is organizing a 10-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Egypt. Departure is March 24. Call Corina at 5254700 or text 0917-8916840.

An early spring promo tour of six nations in Europe leaves March 30. It will be half pilgrimage and half touristic, and will include a visit to Lourdes, France. In the Philippines, a life-sized statue of the Virgin is inside the church of the seminary in Silang, Cavite.

Text 0918-9083676 or call 5223876.



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CITIGROUP Private Bankers Marilyn Ong, Daniel Pine, Steve Lawrence and Hans Goetti

IL DIVO'S lead singers Sebastien Izambard and Carlos Marin with Joji Dingcong and Vicki Belo

FIRST daughter Luli Arroyo and SM's Tessie Sy-Coson

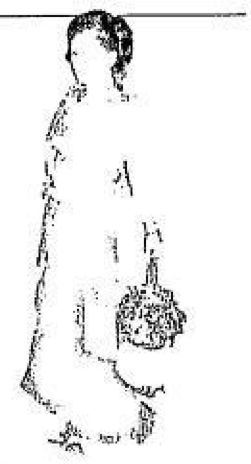
MOTHER and son Fely and José Atienza

SHOW-BIZ royals Franco and Ayen Laurel

FLAMENCO instructor Ginajane Grey with husband Herman

Day with bankers and investors

TESSA!



Tessa Prieto-Valdes

Here's my global market outlook for 2007, whatever that means

MY WORLD IS A WORLD OF LIVING COLOR and not one that is defined by numbers. I cringe at mathematical figures and financial statements.

Nevertheless, I recently attended the Citigroup Global Market Outlook 2007. Every year around this time, many banks present economic outlooks using terms I hardly understand like equities, fixed income and a particularly fashionable new term I hear a lot these days—hedge funds.

Somehow, the idea of a hedge makes me think of a banker rolling up his sleeves and wielding pruning shears. But the rest of the crowd seemed in the know as they sat in the Makati Shang Ballroom listening to the speakers. Not only was my imagination off tangent, but my colorful attire did not really jive in that sea of grey and blue banking suits.

The part I did note was their forecast for the peso to appreciate to P48 by the end of the year. Ah, now that's an easy reference point for the numerically challenged.

I also noted that **Steve Lawrence**, Citigroup managing director and global market manager, was radiant due to his wedding plans this weekend in Hong Kong. Congratulations and best wishes are in order for this brilliant banker and his new bride, **Anna Sy**.

Oddly enough, I did take some finance notes during the seminar. A couple of experts stated that the European markets appear to be bullish and global real estate has better ratings than global equities or bonds. I leave it to you to decipher the meanings of these pronouncements.

In my own little area of expertise, in fashion and interior design, European products and furniture are selling better, thanks to their sleek and trendy designs. So maybe we should buy more Euros rather than dollars!

It has become more convenient for locals to shop for European beauty products, especially French perfumery, thanks to the opening of Marionnaud, an amazingly large luxury cosmetic, skincare and fragrances super shop.

Occupying a hall-size, 900-sq m area in Mall of Asia, this flagship store is their biggest outlet in the world and carries over 6,000 products. There are spa treatment rooms and nail treatment nooks as well.

At the grand opening last month, the French ambassador, **Gerald Chesnel**, cut the ribbon together with **Maria Norrman**, strategic director of Luxury Asia, and **Sevrine Miailhe**, Alliance Française de Manille trustee.

The evening was filled with—what else?—French champagne and finished off with a fabulous raffle prize of P100,000 worth of French beauty products. Many lucky guests walked away with Lancôme products. French lessons and spa treatments from Decleor and Phytomer. Other guests received Gifts With Purchase, which is the usual practice in the store.

An impressive group of well-heeled social belles and business executives graced the opening, including the Sy family led by the taipan himself, **Henry Sy**, and daughters **Tessie Sy-Coson** and **Betty Sy**. Mall of Asia has truly become the shopping destination in this part of the world.

Alliance Française has tied up with Marionnaud not just for this exclusive opening but also for their future programs such as the upcoming Perfume Exhibit at Ayala Museum.

Il Divo mon amour

France is truly hot, so I was hoping to win free French lessons that evening. The most romantic language in the world does sound even better in song. At the sold-out concert of "Il Divo Live in Manila," it was clear that Euro flair has captivated the city. The concert was undeniably romantic with the new fab four singing classics in Italian, French and Spanish.

One can easily fall in love with Il Divo. These gorgeous-looking, equally talented tenors blend so well together and collectively make a powerful quartet. Their repertoire ranges from highbrow opera to the more popular standards, so there's a bit of something for everyone.

Afterward, a number of concert-goers headed to Red at the Makati Shang for some late-night food and drinks. Jakarta-based **Boy Martirez** was celebrating his birthday, so he treated some dear friends and sweet, powerful women such as Gift Gate's **Virgie Ramos**, National Bookstore's **Socorro Ramos** and Smart Infinity's **Julie Carceller**.

Dinner was momentarily interrupted when PLDT head **Manny Pangilinan** rang from abroad and greeted Boy. Is this some sort of a sign or are the two friends just touching base? We shall see.

Over on the other side of the restaurant was the Philtown Properties group, co-sponsor of Il Divo with Smart Infinity. "Go Negosyo" prime mover **Joey Concepcion** is continuously motivating the younger generation to be future entrepreneurs. We really should all follow his example and just be a positive influence to as many as possible.

Il Divo at Nu-Vo

Meanwhile, the Il Divo boys were partying at Nu-Vo with cool talent manager **Joji Dingcong** and Star columnist **Pepper Teehankee**. They were celebrating the birthday of doctor-to-the-stars **Vicki Belo**. Joji told me they partied until the wee hours of the morning, so it was clear the F4 of the classics were at home with the Manila party scene.

My own folks ended up in Duo Restaurant at Serendra, which was bustling with people milling around the open areas. Serendra has become a relaxed alternative to enclosed restaurant complexes.

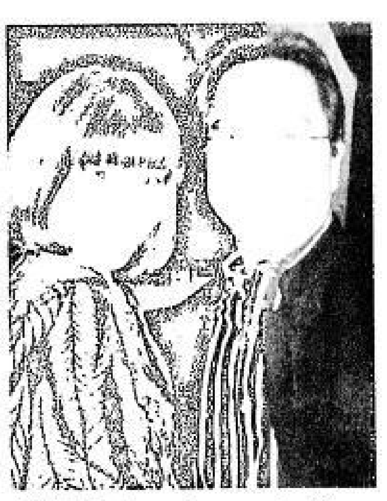
Newly opened Tea & Therapy is one of the refreshing choices where one can indulge in Japanese Bento boxes while sipping different blends of healing teas. The tea shop also offers information about the kinds of teas and their health benefits.

A special interactive feature is the "Ask the Tea Doctor" site where a list of teas pop up onscreen after typing the name of a specific ailment. I wonder if they have a tea variety that enhances one's breasts.

Tea & Therapy is at Serendra; it is located right next to one of my favorite stores, World of Feng Shui. With the Year of the Boar fast approaching, it's always good to be cleansed inside and out to make sure there is undisrupted good chi flowing into the system. Eating, drinking and shopping right can only lead to the right path!

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

SEEN together: Vivienne Tan and Paolo Bediones



SULTRY singer Savannah with dad Francis Lumen

ELEGANT couple Gloria and Freddie Garcia

NATIONAL Book Store's Socorro Ramos and Gift Gate's Virgie Ramos

"**IL DIVO** Live in Manila" at the PICC

FRENCH CONNECTION. Louis Thevenin, Marie Tanguy and Bernard Renaud Fabre

MARIONNAUD'S Maria Norrman and French Ambassador Gerald Chesnel

ABS-CBN family Julius Babao, Tin-tin Bersola, Karen Davila and DJ Sta. Ana

"GO NEGOSYO'S" Joey Concepcion, Kevin Belmonte and Harley Sy

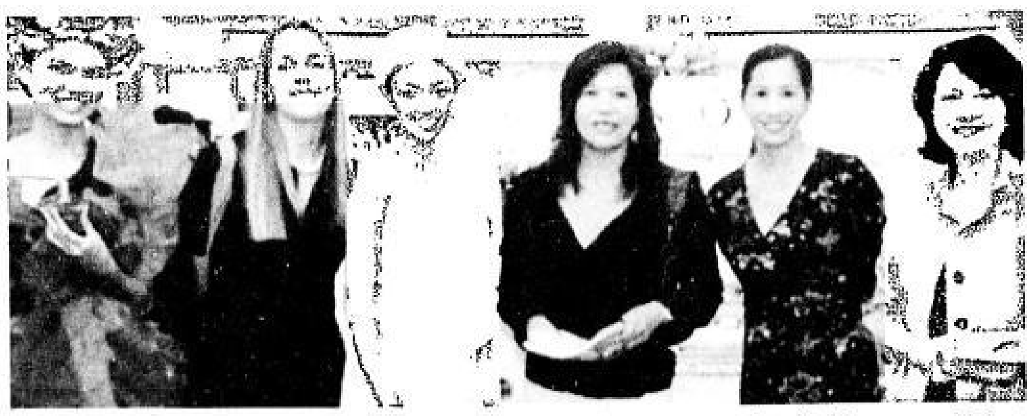
FAMILY friends Tim and Pinky Yang and Rica and Max Geronimo

GINGER tea bars at Tea & Therapy

TAGAYTAY Highlands First Family Mischel, Isabelle and Geraldine Ocier

BUSINESS friends Boy Martirez with daughters Annika and Trina, Smart Infinity's Julie Carceller and sister Kristine Lehmann and PLDT's Butch Jimenez

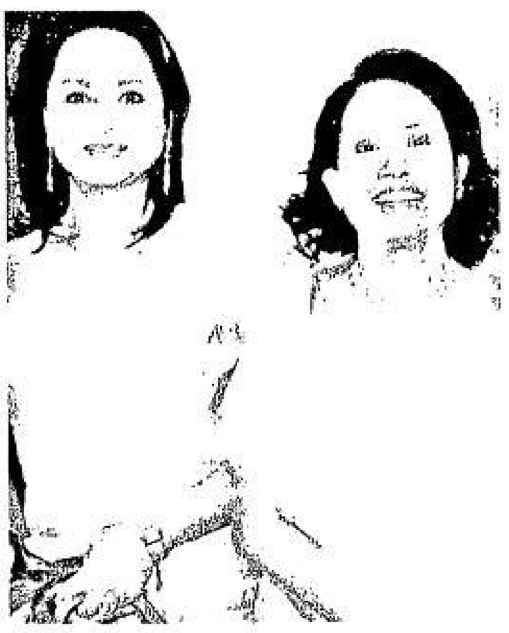
TEA & Therapy at Serendra, The Fort



MARIONNAUD colorful models with Sevrine Miailhe, Karen Santos, Camille Samson and Libet Virata

SHARON Cuneta and hubby Sen. Francis Pangilinan

GROOM'S mom Helen Gamboa with daughters Lala, Apple and Ciara


SPONSORS Charo Santos-Concio and Lily Monteverde

FATHER of the groom Tito Sotto and Sen. Edgardo Angara

SOTTO-WOOLBRIGHT NUPTIALS

Schooled in *romance*

The bride and the groom sustained a seven-year relationship that began when they were both college students

Text by Maurice Arcache
Photos by Alex van Hagen

POLITICS AND SHOW BUSINESS were in perfect harmony when handsome Giancarlo Sotto, *el unico hijo* of hotshot former senator Tito and the still-glamorous movie queen of the '70s Helen Gamboa Sotto, said "I do" with his longtime companion, eye-catcher Joy Marie Woolbright, the *tres charmant* daughter of the late Cebuano businessman Eddie Woolbright and Cebu socialite, adorable Shonie Ducante de Woolbright.

The *tres* fashionable rites held at the Santuario de San Antonio Parish Church in posh Forbes Park was officiated by Fr. Baltazar Otico. The absolutely radiant bride walked down the aisle in a divine bridal gown by the brilliant Jojie Lloren, as the groom waited at the altar in a fab Randy Ortiz suit, dahlings.

Gian and Joy's wedding was the beautiful culmination of a seven-year romance that started and bloomed when they were working for their respective college degrees at the University of Asia and the Pacific.

The longstanding relationship has been blessed with an adorable 2-year-young son, named Vicente Sotto IV, *natch*. He is fondly called Hugo by his doting grandparents, *palanggas*.

Political bigwigs

The hotshot principal sponsors included political pals of the groom's dad: former President Joseph Estrada (represented by his son, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada), former Senate President Frank Drilon, former Senators Loren Legarda and Tessie Oreta, Transport Secretary Leandro Mendoza and former senatorial wives Evelyn Jaworski and Jane Honasan.

Representing the show-business side of the Sotto famille, *palanggas*, were ABS-CBN ladyboss Charo Santos-Concio (but who else, dahlings?); Regal Films matriarch, well-loved Lily Monteverde; TAPE prez Tony Tuviera; and the groom's uncle, Vic Sotto.

Also among the principal sponsors were Cebu City Mayor Tommy Osmeña and his first lady Margot O.; Jesus and Rosebud Sala; Ambassador Philippe Lhuillier (represented by son Jean Henri); Mayor Edmundo and Clarita Buencamino; former Mayor Celestino Jr. and wife Rep. Clavel Martinez, plus other namedroppable sponsors like longtime famille pals Vernon Gamboa, Jose Teofilo Mercado, Discoro and Remedios de Leon, fashion plate Mons Romulo Tantoco, Eric and Cynthia Albano, Ricardo Fernandez, Natividad Cheng, Pacita Lapradez and Lani Najarro.

Apres the church rites, the invitees dashed over to Le Pavillon on Diosdado Macapagal Avenue for the elegant dinner reception, dahlings. The venue was rebuilt in time for the affair after it was completely destroyed by super typhoon Milenyo.

Instant garden

Guests were so impressed by the lavish décor superbly done by Jun Hen. Le Pavillon was transformed into a fabulous garden of fresh blooms and lush foliage.

Renowned celebrity chef Billy King's The French Corner laid out an excellent to-die-for buffet of marinated salmon, US rib-eye, roasted rack of pork, prawns thermidor, fillet of soie and chicken paillard saltimbocca.

The dessert station had the sinful and calorific flambéed strawberries, crème brulée, mini fruit tartlets, and dark and white chocolate fountains.

The one-of-a-kind Penk Ching of the Pastry Bin created a fabulous five-tiered fondant wedding cake, *palanggas*.

Among the hotshots seen socializing were the wife of the Philippine ambassador to Rome, Edna Diago Lhuillier; Senators Manny Villar and Ed Angara; "Eat Bulaga" executive Malou Choa-Fagar; Joey and Eileen de Leon; the groom's cousins, Oyo Boy and Danica Sotto, who was with cager fiancé Marc Pingris; television personalities Nikki Valdez and articulate Pia Guanio; plus tons of others belonging to the social, political and movie worlds, dahlings.

The String Minstrels and the popular 92 A.D. band composed of young Ateneans rocked the place. Guests rushed to the dance floor and rocked it to intensity 9, *palanggas*.

Precise and efficient coordination of the event was done by Rita Neri and her The Wedding Store staff, *palanggas*.

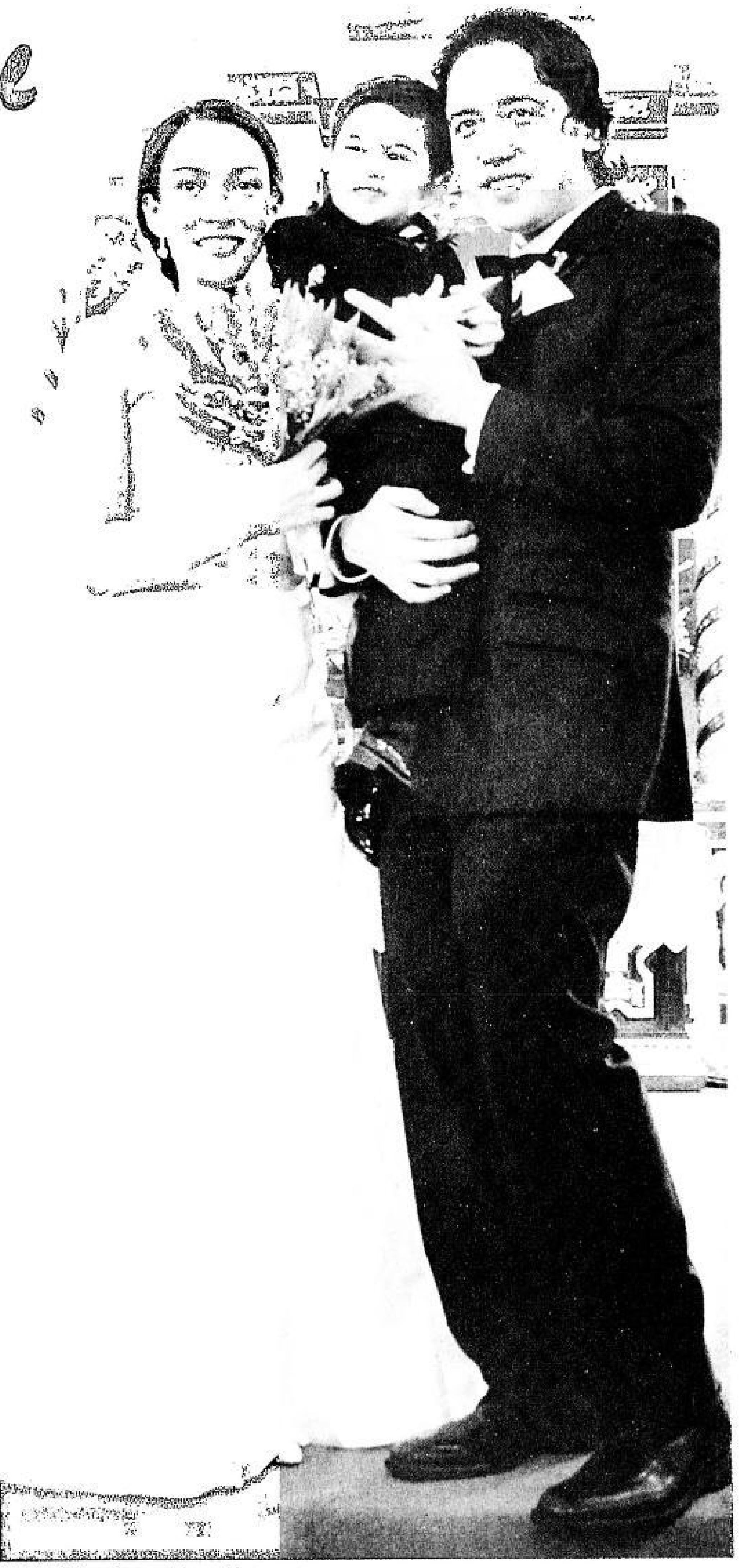
Here's to tons of love for each other and their adorable son Hugo. May their gang of three increase to a gang of five!

Cheers, *palanggas*!

LOVERS at their best! TV's Vic Sotto and Pia Guanio

OYO Boy Sotto and Ciara Sotto

DANICA Sotto and Marc Pingris


JOY and Gian Sotto with son Hugo

JOEY de Leon and wife Eileen

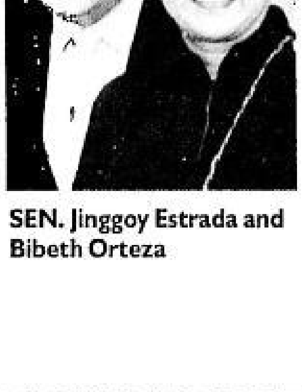
SONNY and Evelyn Jaworski

SECRETARY Leandro Mendoza

VAL Sotto and wife Ma. Theresa

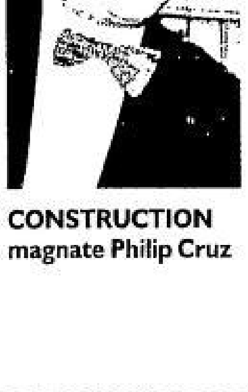
SUSAN Roces

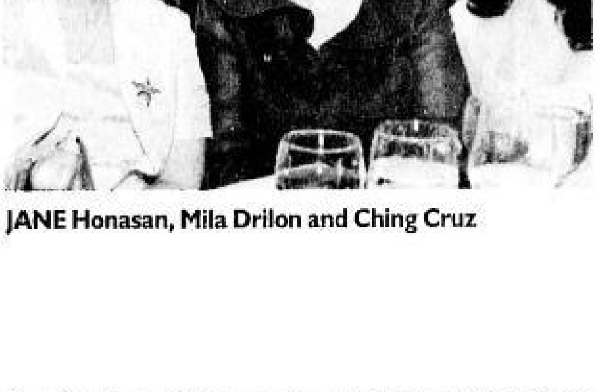
MALOU Choa-Fagar and Monina Santiago

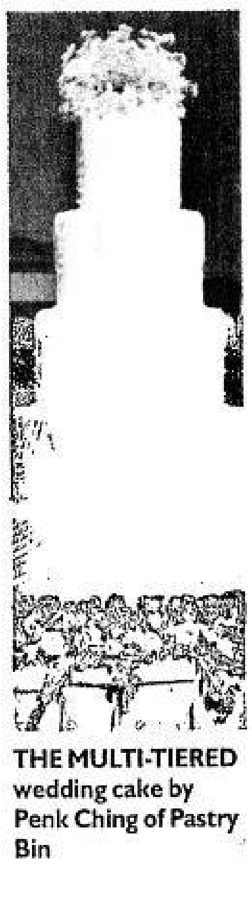

SEN. Jinggoy Estrada and Bibeth Orteza

CARLITOS Siguion-Reyna

SEN. Loi Ejercito-Estrada


CONSTRUCTION magnate Philip Cruz


JANE Honasan, Mila Drilon and Ching Cruz


THE MULTI-TIERED wedding cake by Penk Ching of Pastry Bin

Milestones

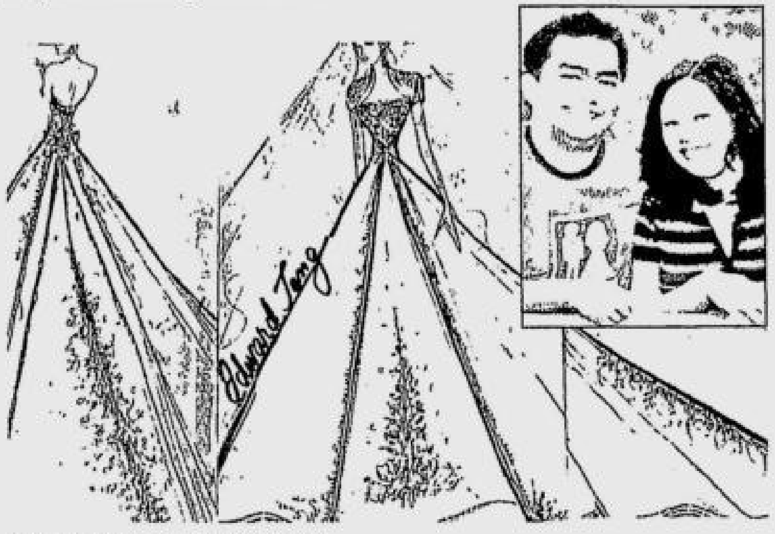
We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, *P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.*

FRANCISCO GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Constancio and **Juana Francisco** celebrated recently their golden wedding anniversary at Greenhills Christian Fellowship. Reception was held at Garden Ballroom, Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

CAYUNDA SILVER ANNIVERSARY

Vice Mayor **Florante Cayunda** of Baybay, Leyte, and his wife of 25 years **Elizabeth Ares**, renewed their marriage vows at the Lady of the Immaculate Conception Parish Church in their town. With them were their sons **Fritz**, lawyer **Florante Jr.** and **Francis Kenn**, who acted as their groomsmen.

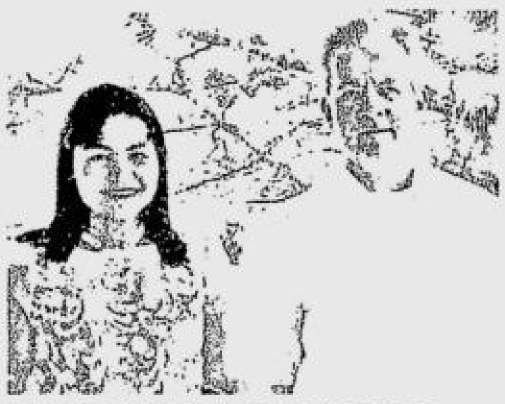


FERNANDEZ-DUNGO

Rodolfo Fernandez Jr. and **Anne Michelle Dungo** will exchange vows Feb. 4 at the Shrine of Jesus, The Way, the Truth and the Life. Most Rev. **Josefino Ramirez** will officiate. Reception will follow at the Coconut Palace. **Edward Teng** designed the bridal gown.

ISIDRO-ALCEDO

Delben Isidro and Dr. **Maria Louisa Alcedo** exchanged vows recently at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Kalibo, Aklan. Reception was held at Sampaguita Gardens, New Washington, Aklan. **Eric de los Santos** designed the bridal gown.



MARX SILVER ANNIVERSARY

Denis and **Laurie Marx** of Geneva, Switzerland, will celebrate their 25th anniversary Feb. 24 at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza, CCP Complex, Manila.

RAMIREZ-WRIGHT

Marcelino "Andyboy" S. Ramirez Jr., son of lawyer **Marcelino** and **Elvira** (nee Santiago) **Ramirez**, will wed **Karen E. Wright**, daughter of Lt. **Robert** (deceased) and **Sofia Wright**, Jan. 30 at the St. James the Great Parish in Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City. Reception will follow at the Ayala Alabang Village Clubhouse. The bride's gown is designed by **Arielle Agasang**.

COLLADO-VARILLA

Michael S. Collado, son of **Salvador** and **Juliana Collado**, will wed **Mary Anne M. Varilla**, daughter of **Jovito** and **Librada Varilla**, Feb. 3 at Our Lady of Holy Rosary Church, Valenzuela City. Reception will be held at Our Lady of Holy Rosary Multi-Purpose Hall.

EQUILA-ZORILLA

Everett John Equila, son of **Jaime Equila** (deceased) and **Beatriz Gulla**, will wed **Vanessa Balisi Zorilla**, daughter of **Jovencio** and **Remedios Zorilla**, Feb. 10 at the San Sebastian Church Quiapo, Manila. The bride will wear a **Gee Guzman Dinio** creation.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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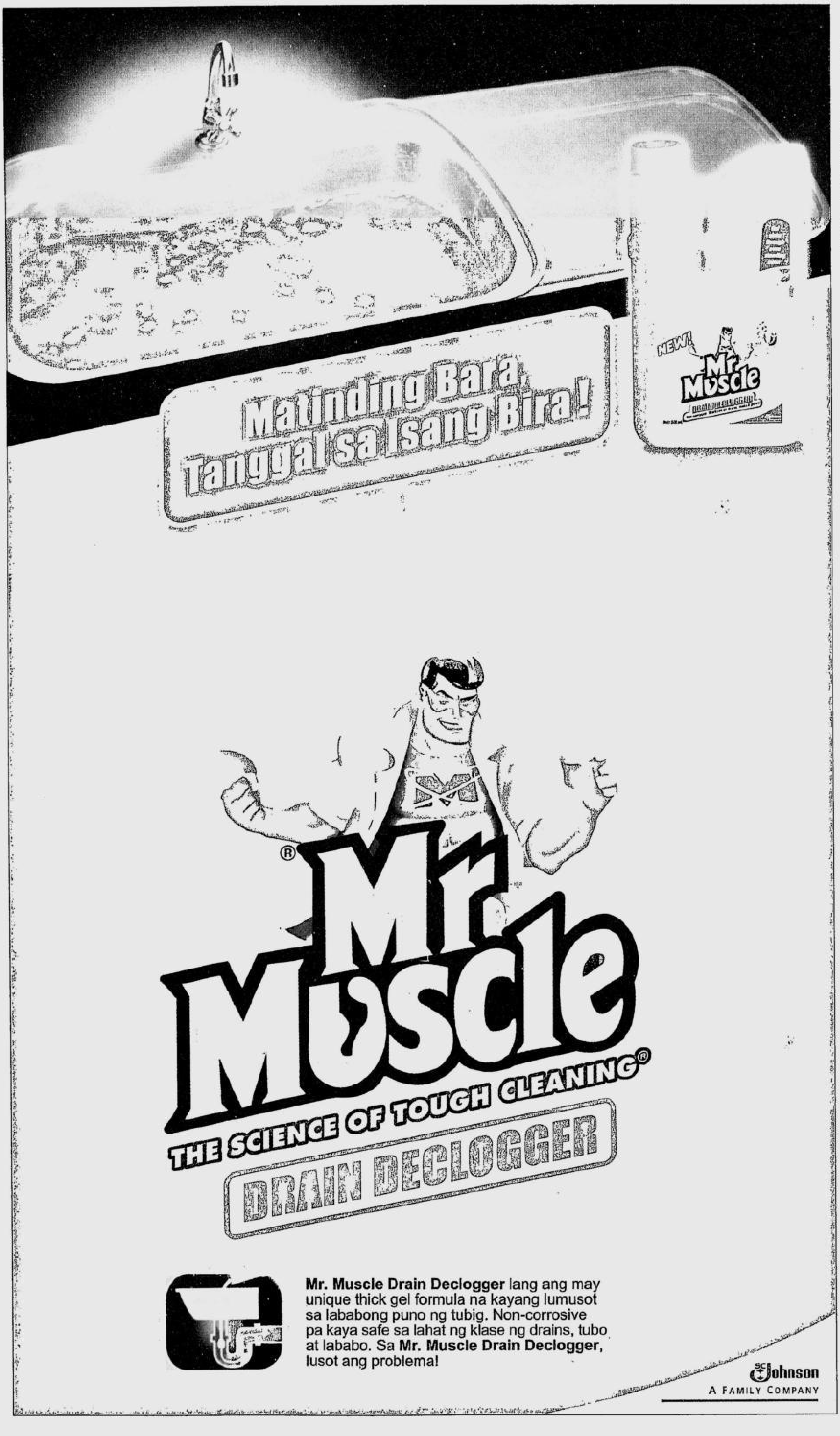

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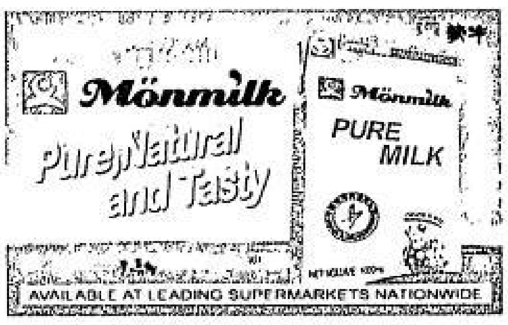
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Exile's empire

US-based Cherry Mariano makes the return of the native a thematic inspiration for her Philippine retreat

GOING BANANAS. This sofa set is of treated banana leaves, woven together.

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Chito Vecina

NOT ALL PEOPLE WOULD buy a house out of sheer boredom. Not everyone would have the deep pockets to afford such a diversion. Certainly not when you're a single, wrinkle-free 29-year-old.

But Cherry Mariano, a US-based entrepreneur, did just that. Early last year, after a six-year absence, she came home to see an old friend. And when the initially planned brief soiree stretched on and on, she needed something to preoccupy her. So last Nov. 8, she got the keys to her house.

"This house is like my little project. I wanted to see how the local market would respond," she said.

So far the response to the house has not been bad at all. A bank executive, who checked out her place twice on the same day, immediately offered to rent her Ayala Alabang home for P250,000 a month. Deft in the skills of buying and selling homes in posh West Los Angeles, California, Mariano did not budge.

For someone who is decidedly very single, Mariano chose a capacious eight-bedroom, three-story abode nestled on a lot almost 1,000 sq m wide. Not quite content with her purchase, she is itching to make an offer on the vacant lot next door. It would be a hefty addition to the recreation area in her nook, she said. Mariano designed the interiors of her own house.

Like many Filipinos who have been away from home for some time, Mariano chose to decorate her house with everything and anything Filipino. A large mirror in the foyer, for instance, is framed by coconut *sapal* in dark chocolate finish, glued piece by piece on solid wood. Instead of a console, an object usually found in the foyer, she opted for a baby grand piano, framed on one side by two oversized native jars.

"I like to be creative. I'm very proud to be a Filipino and I want to showcase our ingenuity in my house. We have a lot going for us in terms of inspired creations," Mariano said.

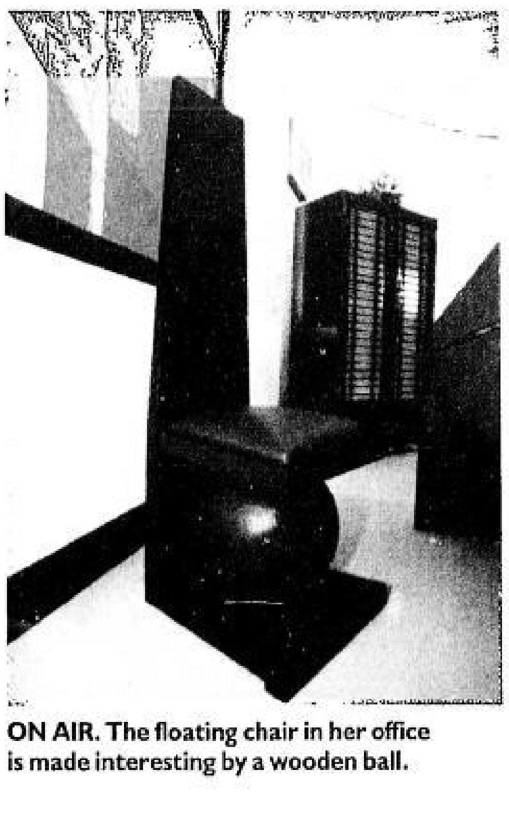
Although she did play the piano when she was a little girl, today she hires a pianist to play for her for two hours before retiring after a hard day's work. Sprucing up her residence nonstop for one-and-a-half months has been physically and mentally exhausting.

The room across the foyer has been turned into her office. Decorated with only the barest essentials, the seamless space breaks into a large abstract painting that hangs on one wall behind the floating chair. In one cabinet is a computer that stores what the security cameras all over the house record.

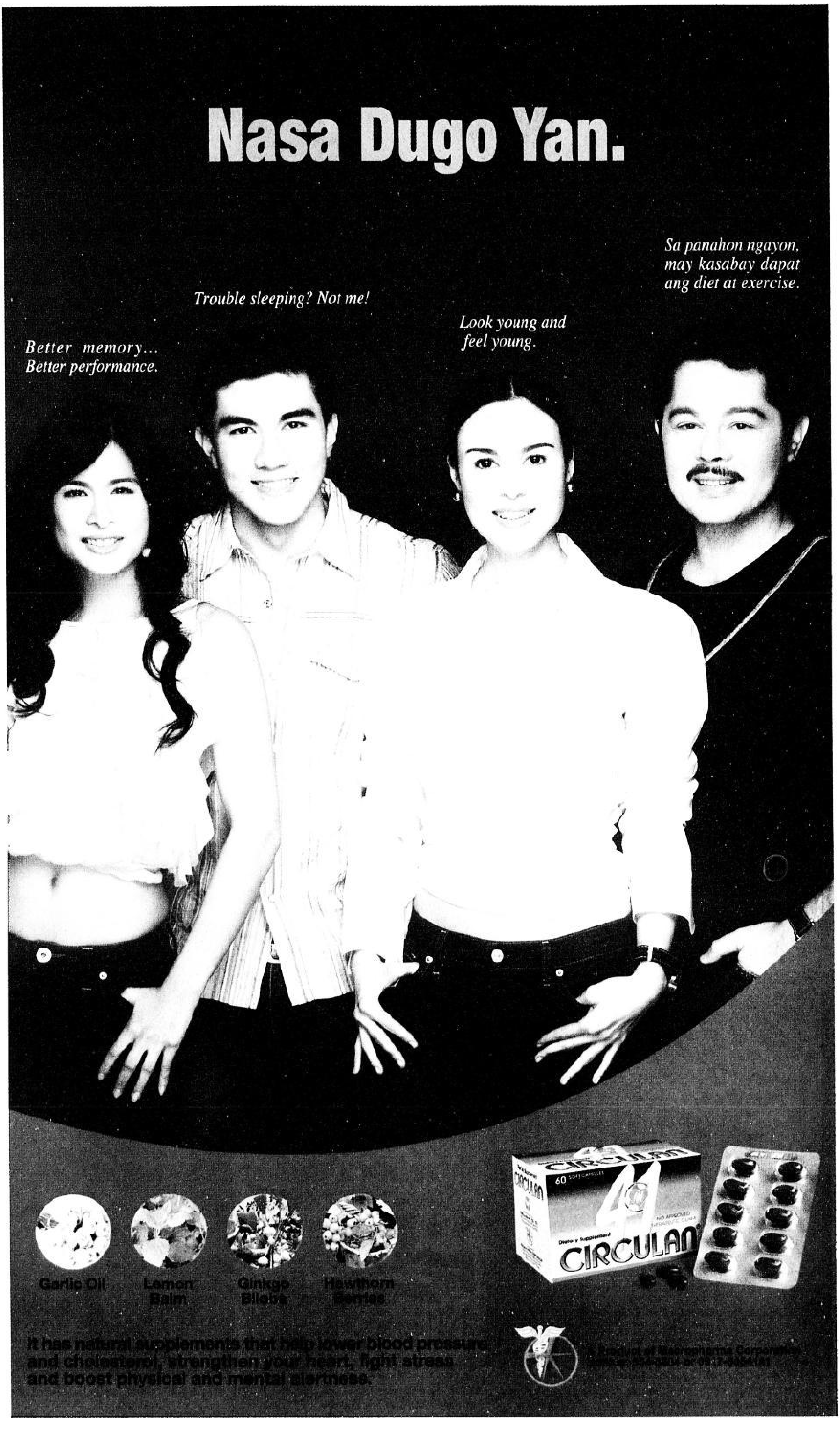
Simple, uncluttered

There isn't a constellation of home accessories in the Mariano residence. That's not because she is pressed for time—she must soon leave for the US to work on her projects—but because she likes things simple and uncluttered. A home should be a place to de-stress and relax, she noted, so nothing should be visually arresting to stimulate the mind into full gear. Despite her selection of big furniture, her home glows of Zen-like serenity.

EXILE'S/ D2



ON AIR. The floating chair in her office is made interesting by a wooden ball.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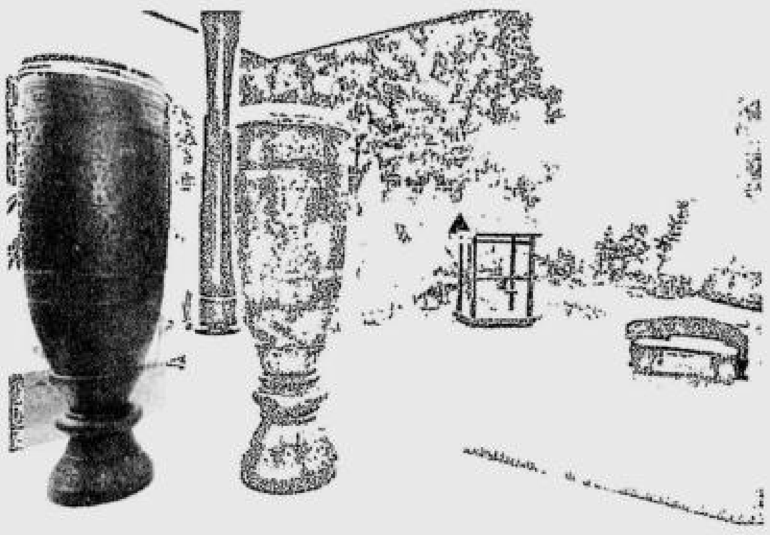
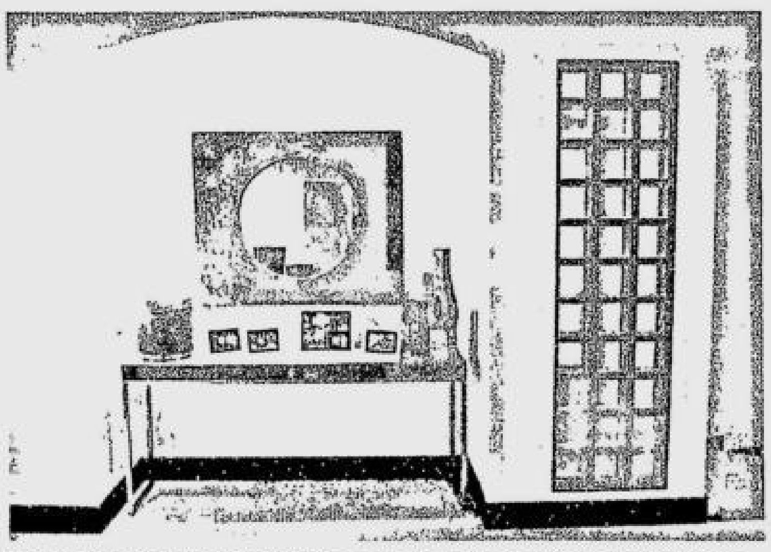
Exile's empire

SPACED OUT. L-shaped recliner in the master's bedroom emphasizes her need for space.



THINK BIG. Locally made large drums adorn the lanai area.



TOO HIP TO BE SQUARE. The console table is stripped of drawers, while the round mirror is framed by square wood; both are of treated coconut shells.

LOCAL GENIUS. The ceiling is layered with *banig*, the mirror is framed by *sapal*, lighting fixtures have capiz diffuser. The glass table gives the area a contemporary look.

From page D1

The living area displays a wide-screen, flat-panel LCD television, with full digital surround home theater system all built into the wall. The ceiling she redesigned herself for the room to enhance the full capabilities of the acoustics.

Save for the rooms of her six-person domestic staff, the bedrooms are stripped of electronic gadgets. Only a phone sits on the side table to allow guests to receive and make calls.

"Bedrooms should lull you into sleep. You won't find any television sets in my rooms except for the living area," she said.

The walls are bone-white, almost bare, quiet and still. Mariano loves anything white—from the linen to towels and mats all the way to her plates and flower décor. Instead of heavy drapes, she decided on blinds in plain off-white canvas, adding a soft texture to an otherwise square tone.

The paintings on the walls bear her specifications. Two paintings in the dining room, for instance, show two women facing the left. It was her directive that the women face the left side of the area. Why? She just likes them that way.

Eight fruits are represented in one painting. She has a penchant for the number 8. In fact, she likes even numbers. Nothing in her space is there by accident.

"One day I gathered all the painters in my house, each assigned to their respected areas, and told them what I wanted for the specific place," she said.

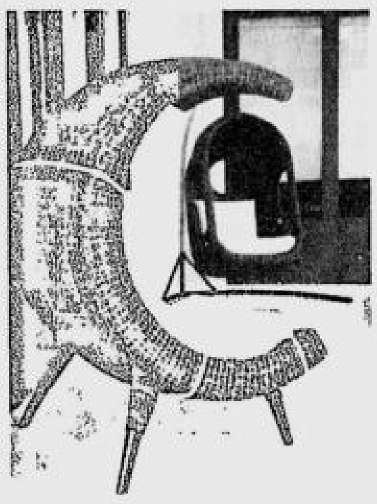
A spiritual and religious woman, she has a prayer room on the third floor. She thought it would be best to put the religious images in one place instead of putting them in various areas of the house. The crucifix is made of solid *narra*, and the rest of the sacred images propped up against one wall are made of hardwood as well to last generations.

On the third floor is also a game room with a solitary billiards table. Mariano used to own and manage a sports bar in Baguio prior to trying out her luck in the US. With many fond memories of her former business on Session Road, she created a game room that recalls her first big gamble into the business world.

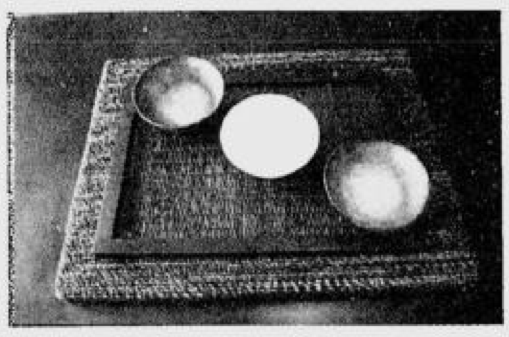
The home is very much a reflection of the woman who commands it, well-grounded and with a mighty good head over her shoulders. It's simple, straightforward and charming. Although it is Mariano's first home purchase in the country, it looks like it won't be her last.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

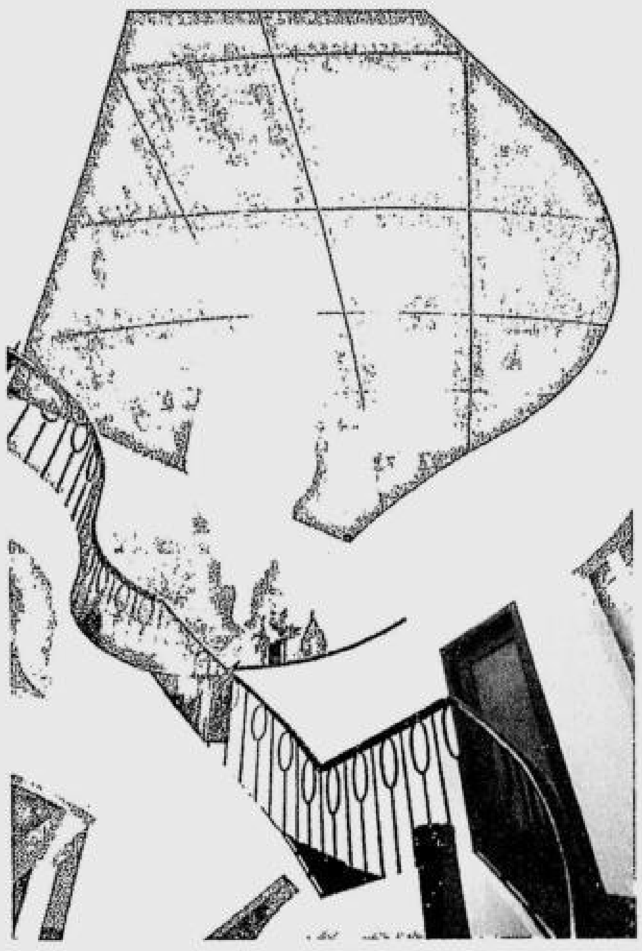
ZEN. Dark chocolate furniture lends the almost bare space a warm glow.



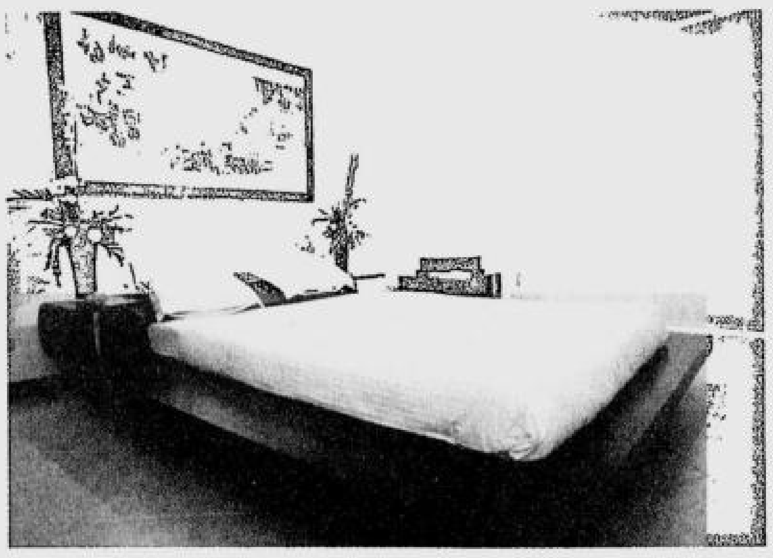
"C" IS FOR CHERRY. The owner's initial turned into this reclining chair



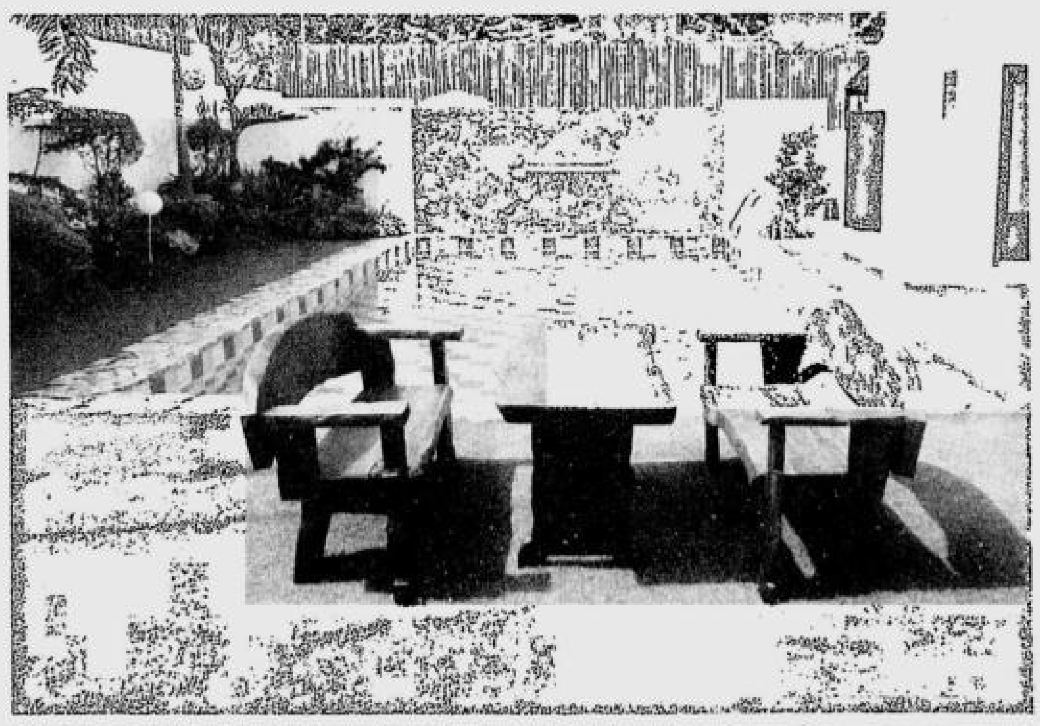
THREE'S A COMPANY. *Nito* mat atop a coffee table



BRIGHTEN UP. An eight-foot chandelier of round capiz shells lights the way up the winding stairs.



DREAMLESS SLEEP. The floating bed, so called for its hidden feet, and the overall look can lure guests into slumber.



CALM RECREATION. Simple garden set of hardwood decorates the pool area.

Get organized 2007

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

PROFESSIONAL organizer Helen Volk compares good clutter control to brushing your teeth:

- You do it twice a day and let nothing interfere. There are no excuses.
- You make an appointment twice a year to examine and eliminate what shouldn't be there.
- Despite these preventive measures, you may still develop a problem that requires your immediate attention. Because this problem causes you pain, you make it a priority to fix it so the pain goes away.

By Kathleen Ong
Contributor

NEW YEAR, NEW LEAF. January is the official "Get Organized" month of the National Association of Professional Organizers (NAPO). It's the perfect month for starting over.

Below is a list of 27 things you can do to get a jumpstart on organized living. Doing any of these will help build momentum in getting you into the rhythm and flow of creating order.

1. Organize your brain.

Create a master list. Best in one notebook, this is a list of all the things you have to/want to do for 2007. From this list you get to choose, prioritize and schedule things you want/need to get done.

2. Create space.

Observe random spots in your space. Is there too much stuff in it? Remember, it's hard to keep a place clean when there are so many things one has to move around.

3. Create a permanent To-Donate box.

Dump things in this box that no longer serve any purpose in your life. When this box fills up, load it in the car and pass it on. Don't look back. Make editing your space a habit.

4. Act on repairs.

Either fix 'em or lose 'em. Schedule to go to the repair center. You sure it's worth spending time and money on?

5. Review the linen cabinet.

Arrange by set used rather than by type. Accessing and putting these away will be quicker. Turn stained or torn pieces into rags.

6. Containerize hardware.

All those loose batteries, nuts and bolts—gather and sort them. There are lots of nifty plastic containers at hardware stores to keep these in order.

7. Read books and magazines.

Assess your reading pile. How many books do you buy a year? Donate books you won't ever read again. Pass on to clinics, libraries, schools, churches or recycling centers for money. How many magazine subscriptions do you have? Either make time to read or discontinue subscriptions. Pass on old children's schoolbooks.

8. Evaluate the shoe cabinet.

Separate the shoes that you wear regularly. Keep the rest by category. Let go of shoes that hurt your feet.

9. Tidy up the kitchen.

Alphabetize spices. Dedicate a leftover's spot in the fridge. Organize the pantry by category. File recipes torn from magazines by category. A folder for salads, desserts, soups. Only keep essentials on the counter.

10. Create a spending plan.

Take charge of money. Balance saving and spending. Have an expenses log. Keep track of where all that money went.

11. Go through photos.

You don't have to keep photos in albums. Opt for photo boxes. Arrange by family, trips, friends, pets, or occasion.

12. Toss.

Expired medicine, food, beauty products. Add old perfume to the list. This stains clothing and smells way too strong to be pleasant. Old manuals for nonexisting items and expired warranties. Rusted items. Blurry DVDs.

13. File.

Either file or toss. Create a file day and stick to it. Ask: How much longer do I wish to keep what I've kept and what for?

14. Finish craft projects.

Be honest. If you've lost interest, pass on craft supplies to other people who can create something from them. If not, maybe you can delegate parts of this project to speed it up.

15. Organize a junk drawer.

Sort and categorize. Dedicate this drawer for one specific category. Example: Office or school supplies drawer, hardware drawer, toiletries, makeup. Don't forget to label!

16. Handle receipts.

Get a small accordion plastic envelope for these. Insert receipts by month.

17. Manage scattered pocket contents.

Have a permanent small tray or basket for dumping items taken out of pockets. Dedicate a permanent spot for these.

18. Control souvenirs.

Too much displayed is too overwhelming. Box some and rotate displays. This also goes for framed photos.

19. Tame projects.

Gather different current projects and keep them in their own separate containers. Use folders, envelopes or box. Label!

20. Review computer items.

Make time to check out contents of old diskettes and CDs. Organize and label. Unsure of tossing old computer software? Ask a techie. A lot of the diskettes or programs we keep are obsolete. Keep only current ones.

21. Check out order in your car.

Have a small wastebasket in there or plastic bags for trash. Tidy up especially the glove compartment and trunk. Check if you have the proper items for emergencies.

22. Preserve memorabilia.

Have a box for each child's/person's mementos.

23. Make time.

Organize an hour a day. Use a timer to keep you on your toes. No TV, please. You can even organize when you have a long waiting time, or when you're bored or upset.

24. Shop.

Shop for containers only after sorting. It's a rule! This way you'll end up buying just what you need—customized to fit!

25. Know what clutter is.

It's things that are pending—requiring decisions and actions. Items you dislike, have outgrown, outdated and broken beyond repair. It can even be things that are in perfect shape but you have no use for. Items you ignore and yet feel guilty about not acting on them. It's things you have not taken care of.

26. Impose dieting.

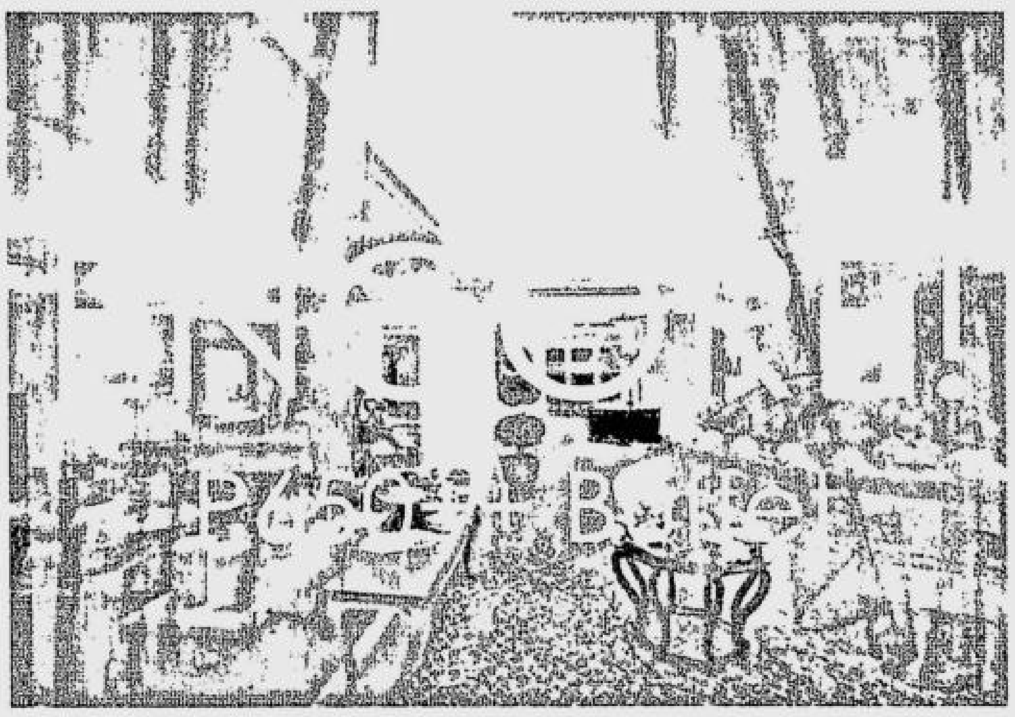
Give your storage cabinets—closet, filing, pantry, supplies—a diet. Eliminate unnecessaries that take up precious space.

27. Envision a clutter-free space.

Decide and act. Overwhelmed? Ask for help.

Organizing is a process. Quit waiting for the perfect time to start organizing your space. Small organizing projects here and there are better than nothing. With baby steps, consistency and maintenance, like pieces of a puzzle, soon it will form a whole picture. Envision and create order.

Organize your space. Organize your life. Log on to www.rippleeffectorganizing.com.



Journey across time as The Café brings back its widely popular ROAST BEEF, SUSHI and TEMPURA buffet madness from Feb 01 to 13, 2007 Feast on a smorgasbord of succulent roast US Angus Rib-eye, assorted sushi and tempura dishes plus other favorite buffet selections. All these hefty indulgence for only PhP 650+ ++ per person

This limited offer is made available at The Café, before its final curtain call, as it sheds new skin in the coming season This is The Café's simple way to thank its regular patrons through a buffet feast, all yours for the taking, 'til your heart's content

For inquiries, and reservations, please call 867-3333 extension 3346.

Dusit Hotel Nikko

LEATHER sofa remains popular.

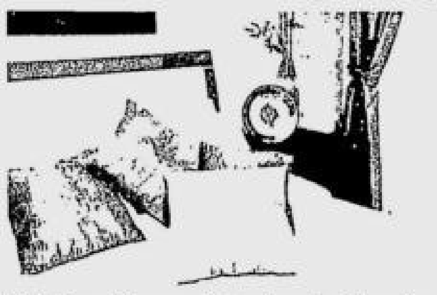
THE SUBTLE color of European oak dining table is brightened up by Air Blue décor.

How to update your space

WITH THE NEW YEAR, IT'S TIME TO GIVE your house a fresh look.

According to Our Home, the key is getting the right mix of colors and materials for your living spaces. If you are planning a new home or simply want to add new touches to your present space, here are some trends to look out for:

Try new colors. Home furnishings will come in contemporary colors this year—many of them fresh new mixes. melange, which combines tantalizing red and orange shades, is a visually stimulating option. Lime green and air blue are more relaxed tones, incorporating earthly hues with softer shades that speak of quiet spaces. Sensual brown, an organic color with an unbleached quality, is another hot color. Take a second look at handcrafted furniture and homemade accents.



STYLE and luxury in textured pillows in lime and other green shades

Anything that looks handmade or traditional is in this year. Bamboo flooring and rattan furniture are making a comeback. Accents made of natural materials like wicker and hardwood that exude a homespun touch are hot this year.

Mix and match fabric and leather. Leather will continue to be popular, and the best way to work with your pieces is to mix them with different fabrics for a textured and interesting new look.

Big and bulky is out, space-saving functional furniture is in. Decorative and functional is the operative word, as compact multipurpose furniture becomes more popular than ever.

Our Home has stores at SM Megamall, SM City Fairview, SM Southmall, the Mall of Asia, The Block at SM City North Edsa, and V-Mall.

Outside of Manila, Our Home has stores at the SM Supermalls in Bacoor, Dasmariñas, Pampanga, Clark, Lucena, Sta. Rosa, Baguio, Marilao, Batangas, Iloilo and Cagayan de Oro.

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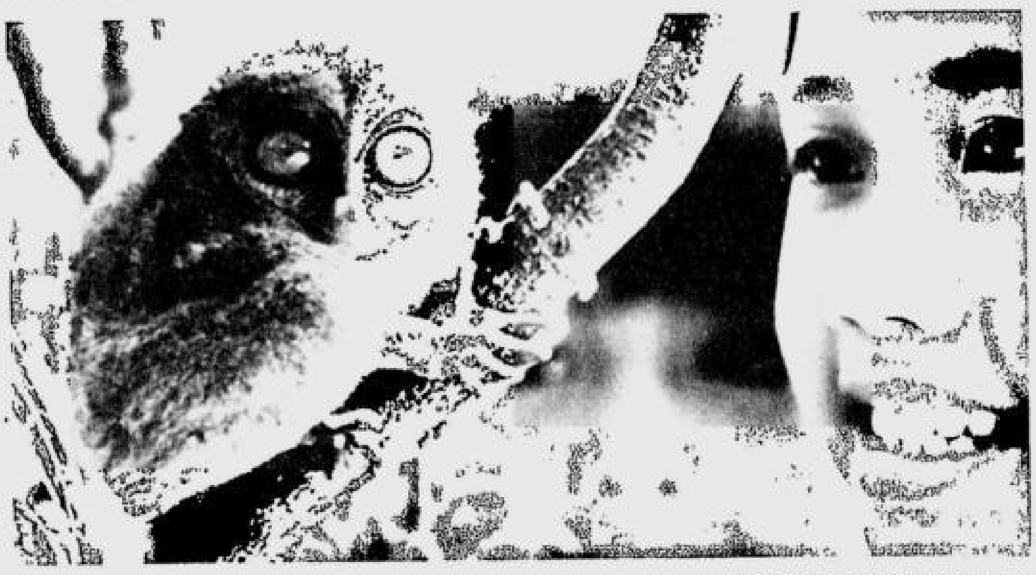
THE LOBOC River cruise allows tourists to leisurely take in Bohol's natural beauty.



THE ADORABLE Philippine tarsier is indigenous to Bohol.

Bohol's beauty is beamed in China

Snacks giant Oishi treats Chinese viewers to the sights and sounds of the legendary Visayan province

WITH the famous Chocolate Hills in the background, the Loboc Children's Choir helps entice on wings of song the TV viewers in China through Oishi's TV commercial.

WHEN PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL Arroyo asked the snacks company Oishi to add the Wow! Philippines logo to their packaging in China, Oishi responded by also coming up with a television commercial featuring Bohol, one of the destinations being promoted by the Department of Tourism.

In the TV ad, viewers get a glimpse of the Bohol must-sees, such as the Chocolate Hills, the beaches, the tarsiers, and even the Loboc Children's Choir, who are shown in the ad singing the Oishi jingle.

The ad is only one of the ways that Liwayway Marketing Corporation, makers of Oishi, is helping promote the Philippines. It has also helped facilitate a sisterhood agreement between Bohol and Jiangxi, China, covering various concerns including agriculture, trade, industry and education.

Aside from producing the ad, Oishi also supports the Loboc Children's Choir by bringing them overseas to perform. It will also help build the Loboc Children's Palace next to the Loboc Church to help encourage interest and develop the children's skills in arts and sciences.

The Children's Palace will provide a venue where tourists can watch the choir's rehearsals and performances.

BOHOL's famous children's choir performs and competes internationally, thanks to the generous support of Oishi.

THE COLORFUL jeepney is also in the TV ad for Oishi snacks.

TRAVELBRIEFS

Special cruise rates

American Express-Adventure International Tours Inc. offers travelers the chance to go on a Crystal Cruise. The general sales agent for the luxury cruise brand said special savings fares were available for selected cruises, with rates as low as $1,890 for a seven-day cruise. Special savings fares are available on cruises to the Mediterranean, Western Europe, Baltic Sea, Russia. Call at 8674888 (Makati), 5248681-84 (Malate), 6891051-54 (SM Megamall) and (032) 2322968/70 (Cebu).

Tour Laguna-Quezon

Inscribe Tours is organizing the Laguna-Quezon Hideaways Tour Feb. 17. It will include visits to sculptor Carlito Ortega's workshop, in San Pablo; a visit to Kusina Salud for lunch and a culinary demonstration; the Earthkeepers Garden in Tiaong, Quezon; Gintong Talulot orchid farm; and the atelier of master potter Ugu Bigyan. Also in the itinerary is a drive along the banks of Sampaloc Lake, the largest of San Pablo's seven lakes. Call 5758370 and 8405912.

Airline has landmark year

Etihad Airways had a landmark year in 2006 with a fleet of new aircraft, 16 new routes, a groundbreaking loyalty program and being named the world's leading new airline for the third year.
At the World Travel Awards (WTA) in September, the Abu Dhabi-based national airline of the United Arab Emirates also received the award for the World's Leading Flat-bed Seat.

Etihad's pioneering loyalty initiative, Etihad Guest, offers members a flexible range of features, benefits and "payment" options. It has already enrolled 70,000 members from 136 countries.

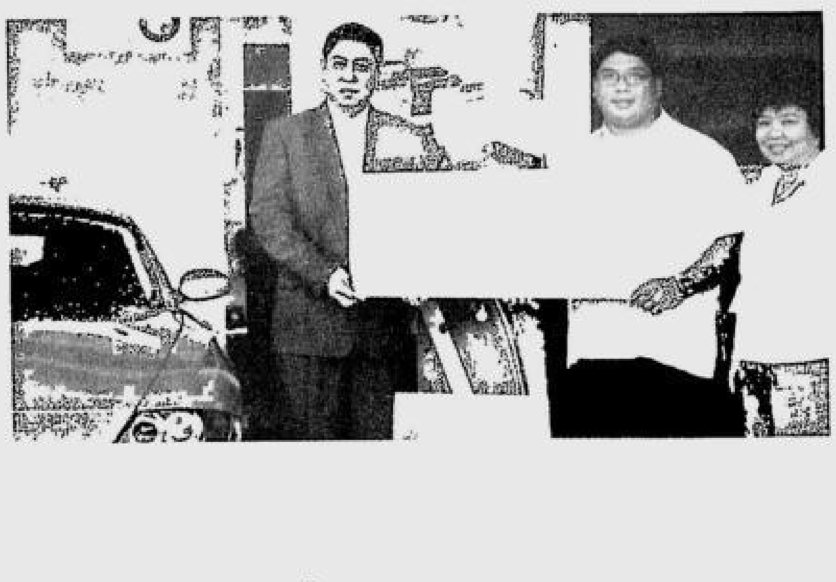
Etihad's new international destinations include Casablanca, Jakarta, Khartoum, New York and Paris.

Gateway to Socsargen

Isla Parilla Resort in Barangay Ladol, Poblacion, Mabel, Saranggani Province, promises guests a memorable visit to the south.

Situated a mere 15 minutes away from General Santos City, Isla Parilla Resort has 14 native floating cottages. All rooms have bathrooms with hot/cold shower, air conditioner, cable television, and a veranda. Six function rooms can accommodate 40-500 people. Four dormitory-type rooms, each big enough for 20 people, are suitable for live-in seminars.

Isla Parilla has facilities for boating and fishing, raft sailing, aqua cycling and others. Guests also have the use of the swimming pool and videoke. Call (083) 5085388.



WINNERS. Gulf Air raffled off round-trip tickets to Germany for lucky participants in the "Live the BMW Life" raffle promo. Winners of the raffle held at Autozentrum BMW Alabang will have an exclusive tour of the BMW Museum in Munich, BMW mobile tradition and factory and an exciting Autobahn ride. In photo are Roberto Hukom, Gulf Air country manager; Vic Limcaoco, Autozentrum BMW operations manager; and Cely Alaguer, DTI representative.

BAGUIO BED & BREAKFAST

People looking for a place to stay in the summer capital may want to check out Microtel Inn & Suites Baguio, a bed and breakfast place that is part of the United States-based hotel chain Microtel. Owned by JIH Prime Management and Development Corporation and operated by Microtel Development Corporation, the economy hotel does away with unnecessary luxuries without sacrificing comfort, convenience and safety. Microtel Inn & Suites Baguio, the chain's fourth hotel in the country, has chiropractic bed mattresses and air-conditioning in every room. It is located beside the Victory Liner Passenger Center on Session Road. E-mail sales@microtelphilippines.com or call 8109526 or 8137523. Visit any Victory Liner terminal or call its customer service hotline 0917-VICLINE (8425463).

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Blue Eyes Blue	BLUEEYES
Got To Believe In Magic	MAGIC

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Song Title	Keyword
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High	HIGH
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Docu relives proud RP moment in dancesport

By Francis Ochoa

BELINDA ADORA bounced around, table-hopping, inside the ballroom of a posh restaurant, until the lights were dimmed and the chatter was hushed. She settled into a chair then, surrounded by reporters. The huge TV screen lit up for the main event.

When she saw herself in moving pictures, Adora beamed and let out a mild shriek. It must have been startling for this "girl from the province" to see herself thus, up close and personal. She'd better get used to it, though.

Newest craze

For its "Show Real Asia: Strictly Asian Ballroom special," the National Geographic Channel delves into the world of dancesport via a documentary featuring Adora and Japanese ballroom dancer Yuki Ishihara. The docu explores two distinct persuasions that split the Asian ballroom scene—the sense of tradition that pervades the dance halls of Japan and the passion with which enthusiasts in the Philippines take to the newest sporting craze.

Oh yes, it is a sport. Long confined to perfumed halls inhabited by the upper class, dancesport has invaded the consciousness of the regular folk with its contribution to the Philippine cause during the Manila Southeast Asian Games in December 2005, where the country won the overall title.

Adora was the spearhead of the dancesport squad, which National Geographic aptly described as the region's "Dream Team."

And the meat of the NGC feature traces Adora's run towards the Games.

Not just the Games

A few minutes into the docu, Adora covered her face with her right arm, trying not to watch the part where she competed in Singapore. Dancing with a new partner, Adora had lost the event. This would add to the pressure she felt when she subsequently represented the country in the Southeast Asian Games.

"[There was more] pressure ... because it was held here and you want to win it for the Filipinos," she said, fetching memories of an interview she gave before the SEA Games. "If this were ... in another country, I would not feel so nervous," she said then. She would utter the same words in the interview with National Geographic Channel.

But the feature, which starts airing tonight, is not all about the Games. It actually traces Adora's personal growth through the sport. It shows her humble start in the ballroom scene where, as a "young girl from the province," she traded her books—and her tuition money—for dance classes.

She giggles while narrating how she started, and looks back with fondness even on the hardships she had to endure on her way to the top.

While the Japanese subject, Yuki Ishihara, was born into "ballroom nobility"—his father was a dancer, and is the host and one of the organizers of the competition featured in the documentary—Adora had to claw her way up.

The NGC feature showcases poignant interviews with people close to Adora—her mother, her dance partner Michael Mendoza, and a socialite student who happens to be the daughter of tycoon Lucio Tan. They all speak glowingly of her discipline and dedication to her craft.

As in every NGC feature, the filmmakers have succeeded in capturing the essence of the subject at hand—never mind if, in some spots, the writing falls short of the filmmaking.

When the camera catches Belinda in a close-up, head bowed in anticipation of the announcement of the gold medal winner in the SEA Games, one feels like bowing one's head as well, despite prior knowledge of the result!

As anti-climactic as the final scenes may seem, they still give one goose bumps, especially when Adora and partner Mendoza lock each other in a tight and tearful embrace.

Proud Pinay

"I am proud of myself," she says in conclusion, the history of the accomplishment not lost on her. "This is the first dancesport event in the SEA Games and I won the first gold. I am proud."

"Strictly Asian Ballroom" replays on Feb. 4 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 5 at 5 p.m.

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JAPANESE dancer Yuki Ishihara and partner

BELINDA Adora with Michael Mendoza

'God' bleeped out

ATLANTA—SO MUCH FOR GOD AND country, at least during some in-flight showings of the Oscar-nominated movie "The Queen." That's because all mentions of God are bleeped out of a version of the film given to some commercial airlines.

CHEER FACTOR

Even in these politically correct times, censoring references to God in the film was not a statement of some kind. Rather, it was the mistake of an overzealous and inexperienced employee for a California company who edits movies selected for onboard entertainment.

The censor was told to edit out all profanities—including any blasphemy—for the version of the movie distributed to Atlanta-based Delta Air Lines, Air New Zealand, and other carriers.

So the new censor mistakenly bleeped out each time a character said "God," instead of just when used as part of a profanity, said Jeff Klein, president of Jaguar Distribution, the company that distributed the movie to airlines this month.

In-flight viewers of the film at one point heard "(Bleep) bless you, ma'am," as one character spoke to the queen. In all, the word "God" is bleeped seven times in the version.

Klein discovered the mistake after a London-bound Air New Zealand passenger complained earlier this month and the airline apologized for showing "the incorrect version of the film." *AP*

Long live digital movies—David Lynch

LOS ANGELES—HE'S CREATED SOME of the most memorable and enigmatic works ever committed to celluloid, but as far as David Lynch is concerned, film is dead.

The maverick Hollywood director famed for disturbing movies which explore the dark side of human nature such as "Blue Velvet," "Eraserhead" and "The Elephant Man" says he has become part of the digital revolution.

"Film is a beautiful medium," the 61-year-old outsider told AFP in an interview. "Beautiful machines, beautiful cameras, the look—everything is exquisite. But making films like that is dead." Lynch shot his latest film "Inland Empire," an intriguing and infuriating three-hour puzzle that has left critics scratching their heads and reaching for the vitriol, entirely using lightweight digital cameras.

No going back

And he insists that for the rest of his career there is no going back to traditional filmmaking.

"Traditional movie cameras are like lead. The dollies are giant and heavy. Everything is big and so slow. Every time you move the camera, you have to re-light the set. It's like molasses in January." Working in digital allowed Lynch to shoot and edit in real time, whereas previously he would have to wait 24 hours for film to be developed.

"Seeing what you're really and truly going to get and being able to tweak it right there, is priceless," he says.

"To be able to maintain spontaneity on set without killing the magic of the moment by having to reload the camera is a whole new way of working. I could never go back to working in film. It's like a dinosaur." Yet though Lynch has enthusiastically embraced new technology in his art, he is dismayed by the thought that as more movies are made available to download over the Internet, people will drift away from watching films on a big screen.

"It's a horrible thought," he says. "I truly hope that if people are going to start watching films on their iPods, they have some sort of device that will allow them to squirt a huge picture onto the wall," he says.

"But I hope the tradition of going to the movies never dies. A giant screen, a dark theater with hundreds of people, the curtains opening and everyone traveling into a different world ... it's a magical thing."

Lynch was speaking as part of a promotional tour for his new book "Catching the Big Fish," in which he describes his methods of capturing ideas and the immense creative benefits of daily meditation.

He has also carried out a mini-tour of the United States, appearing in New York, Washington and Hollywood with Scottish folk singer Donovan.

Key to creativity

Although he acknowledges the irony of promoting inner bliss after a lifetime's work spent exploring the violent recesses of humans, Lynch says his sense of peace achieved through meditation will not necessarily alter the traditional themes of his films.

"Meditation for me has been the key to an ocean of creativity. The ideas just keep flowing," Lynch says, scoffing at the traditional notion that great art was often the fruit of great suffering.

"Somewhere this idea, maybe it came from the French, started that there was something noble about the starving artist in his garret, shivering in the cold. I admit I thought that was cool. But if you're really suffering and depressed you can't get out of bed. I think the starving artist thing is just a great way to get chicks — they take pity on you and bring you food. And if you're lucky, they hold you tight." *AFP*

THE MAVERICK Hollywood director ("Blue Velvet," "Eraserhead" and "The Elephant Man") say he's never going back to film.

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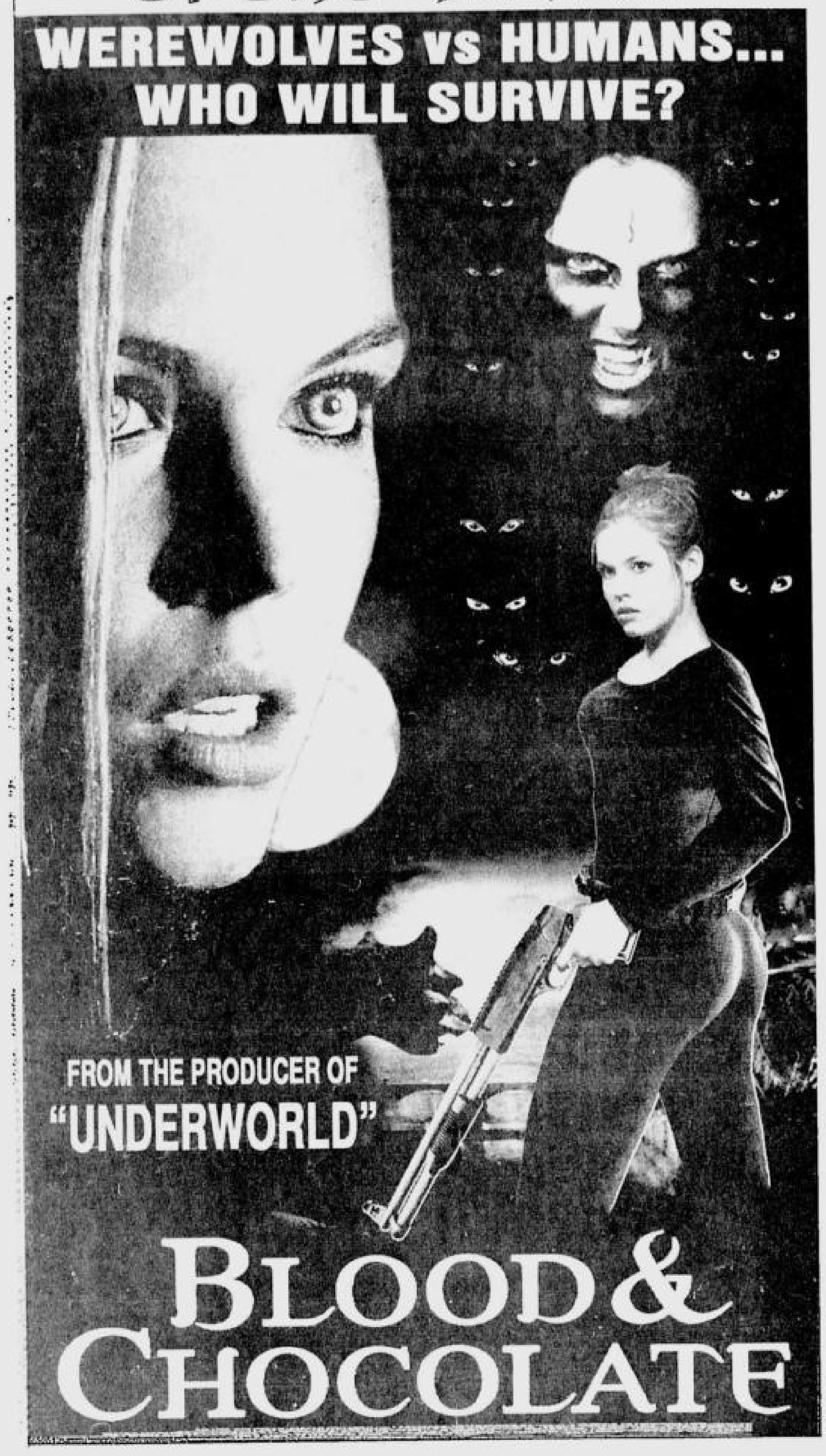
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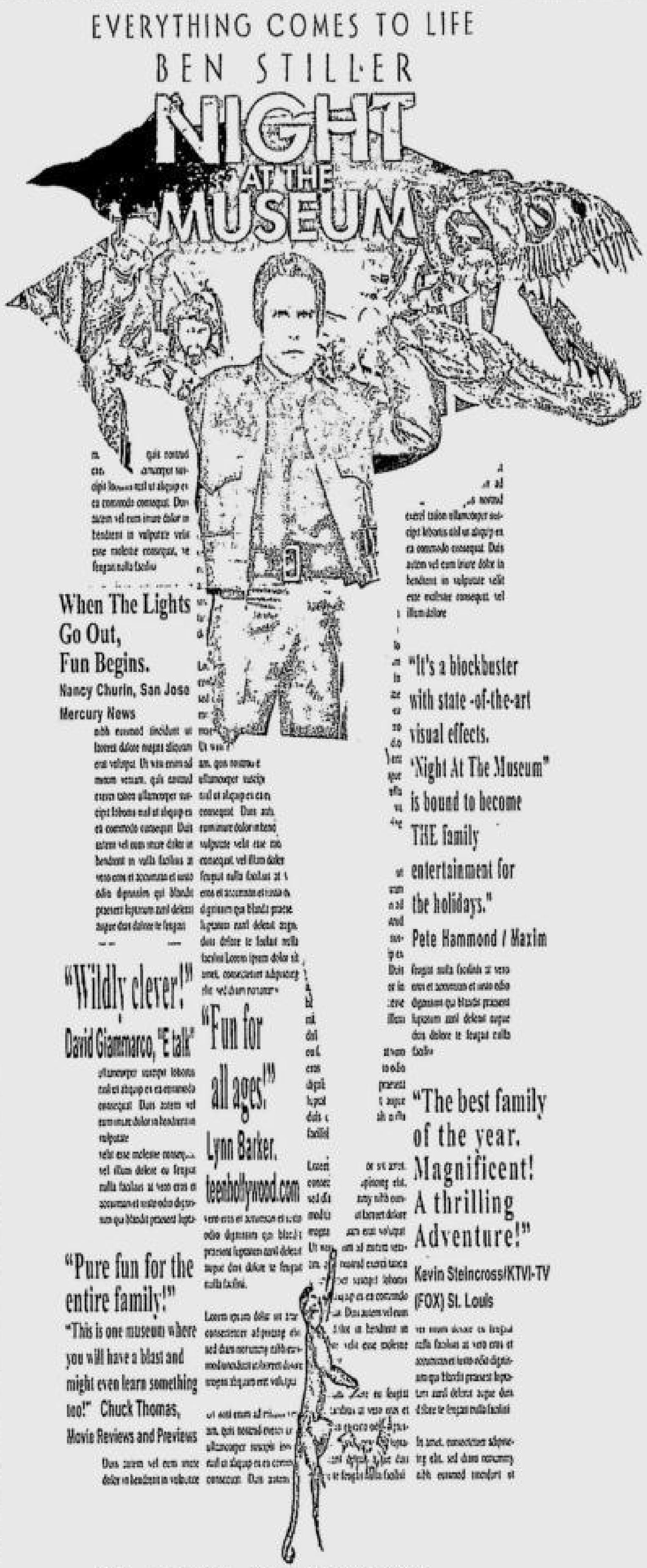

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NOW SHOWING

HUGH GRANT

MICK JAGGER

Rolling in cash

NEW YORK—THE ROLLING STONES ARE rolling in cash, leading Forbes.com's list of top money makers in the music industry in 2006 with $150.6 million in earnings.

Mick Jagger, Keith Richards and the rest of the band "don't sell many discs these days, but they have little trouble luring fans to see them live," the business news Web site said.

The group's "Bigger Bang" tour grossed a whopping $138.5 million last year, Forbes.com said, putting them ahead of country music's biggest acts and pop icon Madonna.

Behind the Stones, the country music couple Tim McGraw and Faith Hill ranked second with earnings of $132 million, country trio Rascal Flatts followed with $110.5 million and Madonna came in fourth at $96.8 million.

RUSHES

The rest of the top 10 music money makers were singer Kenny Chesney, $90.1 million; Celine Dion, $85.2 million; Bon Jovi, $77.5 million; Nickelback, $74.1 million; and the Dave Matthews Band, $60.4 million.

AFP

Hugh Grant taken

LONDON—HUGH GRANT, FAMOUS FOR playing fancy-free cads in films like "Four Weddings and a Funeral" or "Bridget Jones," admitted Thursday he has "settled down" with socialite Jemima Khan.

Speaking at a press conference for his new movie "Music and Lyrics," Grant, 46, said his relationship with Khan was rock solid. "My life is very nice now," he said.

For the last three years Grant has been dating Khan, the ex-wife of cricketer Imran Khan and daughter of the late Euroskeptic tycoon Sir James Goldsmith.

Grant, who recently returned as scoundrel Daniel Cleaver in "Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason," said he liked starring in romantic comedies.

AFP

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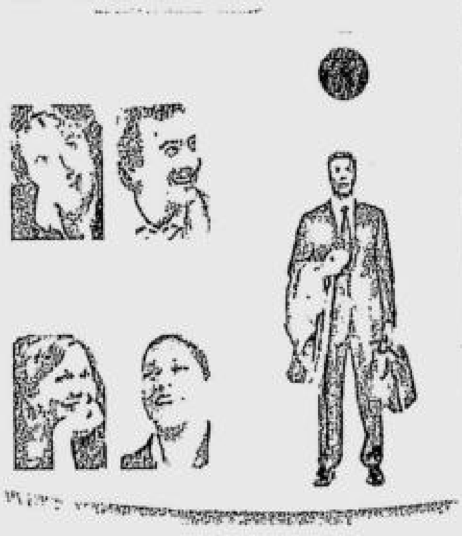

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Help indie film revolution, provincial filmmakers urged

By Desiree Caluza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—THE PRODUCER of multi-awarded independent film "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros (The Blossoming of Maximo Oliveros)" has urged filmmakers from the provinces to share their talent in pushing the country's "indie film revolution."

Raymond Lee told a forum of movie enthusiasts here that "Maxi" would soon make provincial rounds to inspire local filmmakers and reach out to a wider audience.

The film had a limited commercial run in Metro Manila in 2005 and 2006 and was shown in special screenings in provincial theaters, colleges and universities.

Lee noted that "Maxi" failed to get an Oscar nomination last year, but continued to receive invitations to international film festivals, and went on to become the first Filipino film to be nominated to the Independent Spirit Awards.

RAYMOND LEE EV ESPIRITU

The film made money when it was screened in several movie houses in Metro Manila in December 2005. But Lee said independent filmmaking should not be focused on making a profit. "It should be about reaching out to audiences," he said, adding, "an indie filmmaker should [therefore] be self-sustaining."

Lee, a first-time producer but a veteran scriptwriter, said independent film producers generally operated on a low budget and usually sought foreign grants or tapped corporate sponsors and individual donors for financing.

Baguio-based artist Kawayan de Guia told the forum that funds for his first full-length film venture, "Rangtay Papan Idiay Bangir (Bridge to the Other Side)," came from his and two friends' pockets.

De Guia, son of independent filmmaker Kidlat Tahimik, said the film was shot last year and is now in its post-production stage.

Lee said he believed the Filipino audience was ready for more independent films after the artistic and commercial successes of "Maxi."

"'Maxi' proved that indie films are not [made for a] limited audience ... that [ordinary people] can understand and relate to them."

FEEDBACK

ELMER "THE Dent" M. Lanuzo

Dear Mr. Nepales,

You are a cool guy, you deserve kudos for your wonderful and amazing reports on the goings-on in Hollywood!

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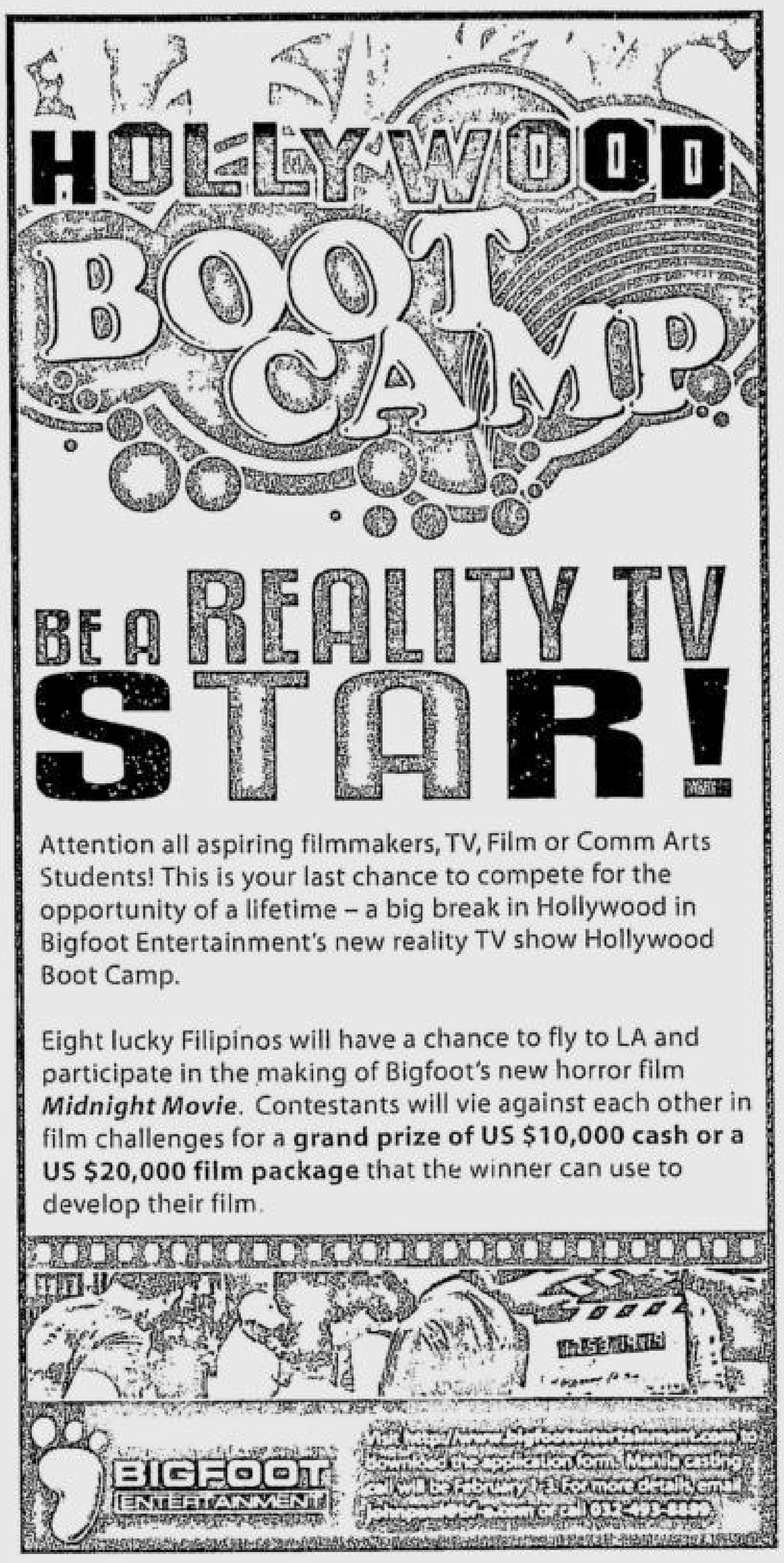

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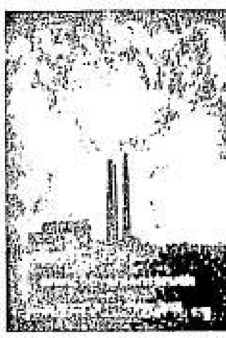

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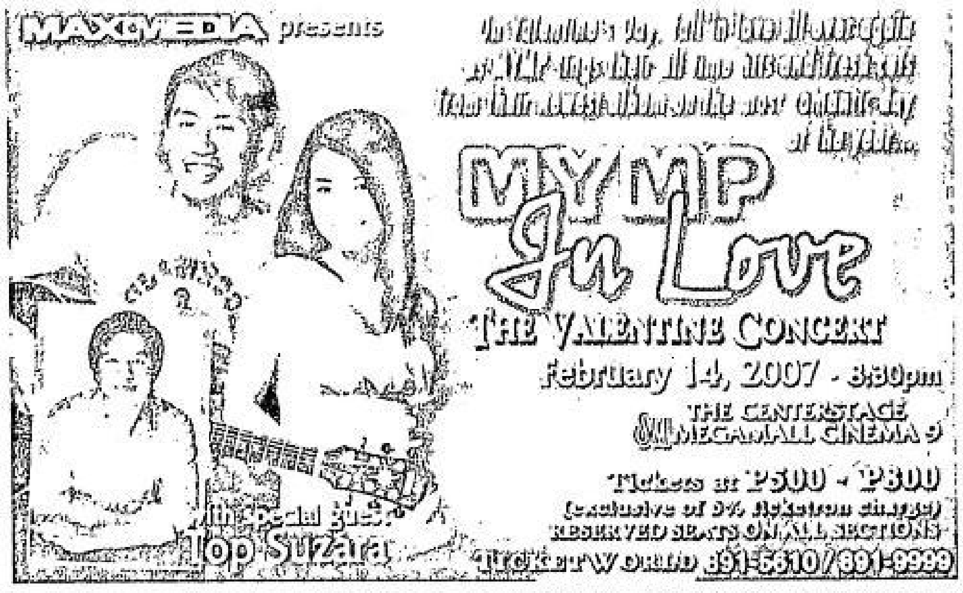

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MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
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SHANG CINEPLEX
6th Floor Shangri-La Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
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1 (DOLBY) NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 (DOLBY) BABEL
3 (DOLBY) NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
4 (DOLBY) DÉJÀ VU
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) LITTLE CHILDREN

Masagana CINEMA 2000
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 AGENT X 44
2 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
3 BLOOD DIAMOND

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 DÉJÀ VU

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 ERAGON
3 KAMASUTRA-3
4 A GOOD YEAR

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 DÉJÀ VU
3 AGENT X 44
4 LITTLE CHILDREN

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 AGENT X 44
2 LIGALIG (BATANG MAYNILA)

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) DÉJÀ VU
2 (DOLBY) NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
3 (DOLBY) NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
4 (DOLBY) LITTLE CHILDREN

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 AGENT X 44
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) LITTLE CHILDREN
5 RESRVED

metropolis star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433934
1 AGENT X 44
2 LITTLE CHILDREN
3 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
4 BLOOD DIAMOND

THEATRES
1 ROB-B-HOOD
2 AGENT X 44
3 DÉJÀ VU

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-52
1 AGENT X 44
2 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
3 RESRVED
4 RESRVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 SAW - 3 / ROB-B-HOOD
2 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
3 ERAGON
4 DÉJÀ VU
5 BABEL
6 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
7 BLOOD DIAMOND
8 LITTLE CHILDREN
9 KASAL KASALI KASALO
10 AGENT X 44

Blue Wave MALL VINTON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 (DOLBY) AGENT X 44
3 (DOLBY) ROB-B-HOOD
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 LITTLE CHILDREN
3 AGENT X 44
4 KAMASUTRA-3
5 KASAL, KASALI, KASALO

THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 AGENT X 44
2 SHAOLIN EVIL DEAD -3
3 PLAESE CALL
4 RESERVED

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 SAW - 3
2 AGENT X 44
3 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 DÉJÀ VU
2 AGENT X 44
3 ERAGON

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 KASAL, KASALI, KASALO
2 AGENT X 44
3 DÉJÀ VU
4 ROB-B-HOOD

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 BLOOD DIAMOND
2 AGENT X 44
3 DÉJÀ VU

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 AGENT X 44
2 ERAGON

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 KASAL, KASALI, KASALO
2 SHAOLIN VS' EVIL DEAD

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 SPIRIT TRAP
2 BAYARAN
3 BASA SA DAGAT
4 ERAGON

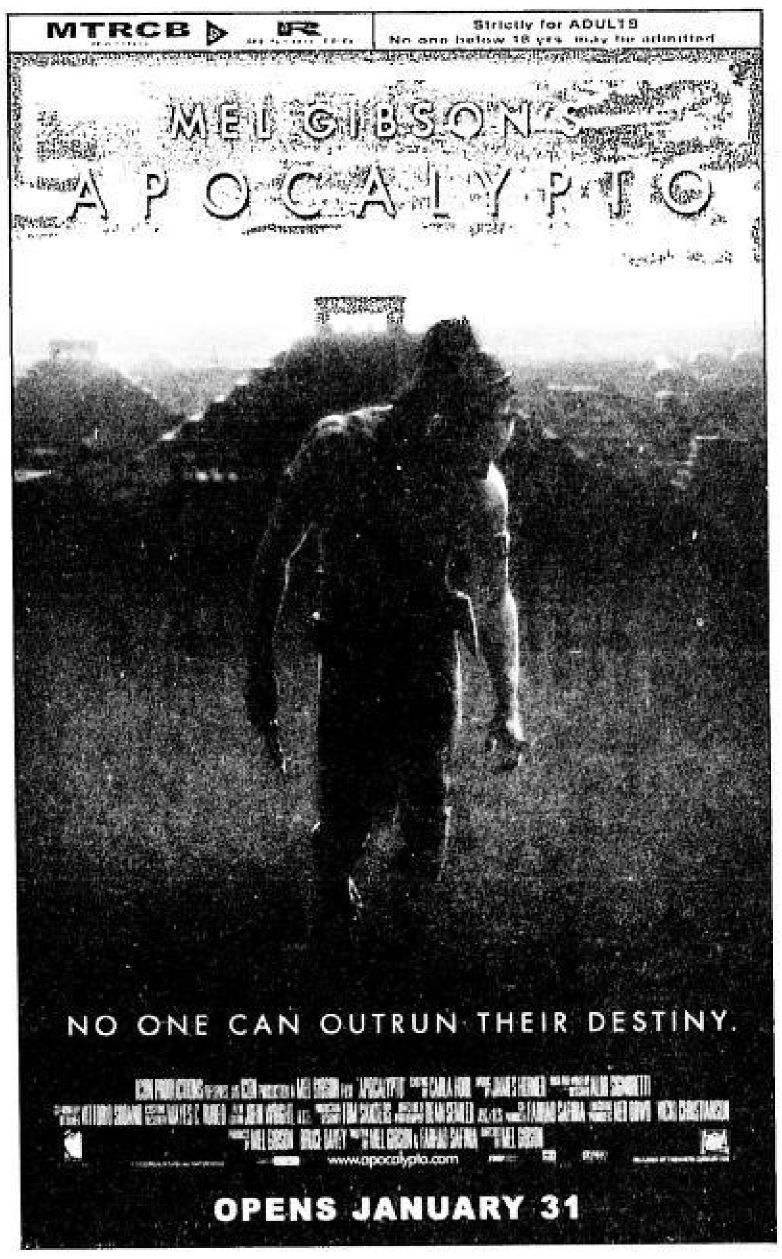
Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 SAW - 3
2 ROOM SERVICE
3 AGENT X 44
4 GAMITAN
5 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 ZU WARRIOR
2 SPIRIT TRAP
3 AGENT X 44
4 SAW - 3

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 SHAOLIN VS' EVIL DEAD
2 KAMASUTRA - 3

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Julia Roberts
Dakota Fanning
Steve Buscemi
John Cleese
Oprah Winfrey
Cedric The Entertainer
Kathy Bates
Reba McEntire
Robert Redford
Thomas Haden Church
Andre Benjamin
MTRCB RATING G FOR GENERAL AUDIENCE
Charlotte's Web
Help Is Coming From Above
IN THEATERS JANUARY 31



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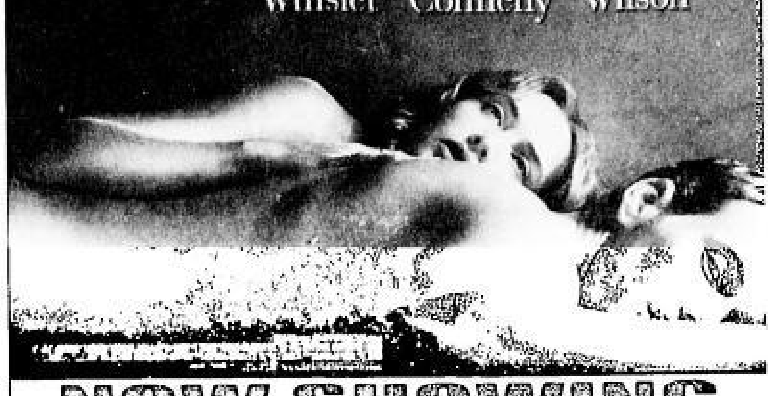
Kate Winslet Jennifer Connelly Patrick Wilson



NOW SHOWING

SAMUEL Jackson, left, and Giancarlo Esposito at the last party we attended in Sundance.

Much ado about nothing over Dakota Fanning's rape scene

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—WE'RE BACK IN EL LAY, feeling much lighter after shedding the 100 layers of clothing we had to wear to protect our Pinoy body against the winter cold in Park City, Utah.

While we were away, **Jessica Hagedorn**'s "Dogeaters" opened at the **Kirk Douglas** Theatre. The veteran actor, after whom the theater is named, and his wife, **Anne Douglas**, reportedly watched on the second night.

Variety's **Bob Verini** wrote in his review: "Encapsulating an entire society at a particular place in time would seem as thankless a task as a playwright could take on. But **Noel Coward** managed it in 'Cavalcade,' and Jessica Hagedorn takes a creditable stab at creating a multilevel portrait of the Philippines' wild and wicked Marcos era in 'Dogeaters,' adapted from her novel… **(Ramon) De Ocampo**'s intensity is welcome…"

Pick of the week

LA Weekly chose "Dogeaters" as its pick of the week. The paper's **Martín Hernández** wrote: "Jessica Hagedorn's 40-character play is a compelling tale of intrigue set in the Philippines of 1982, when President **Ferdinand Marcos** and his wife, **Imelda**, ruled with the haughtiness of depraved monarchs but spent public money like a pair of drunken sailors … Director **Jon Lawrence Rivera**'s epic staging of his 20-member ensemble is flawless. Stealing the show are **Ivan Davila**'s drag-queen diva with a secret, **Orlando Pabotoy** and **Liza Del Mundo**'s vapid TV commentators, and **Natsuko Ohama**'s imperious Imelda, who often silently and disdainfully peers at her subjects from above the stage."

"Dogeaters" runs through Feb. 11. Kirk Douglas Theatre is at 9820 Washington Blvd., Culver City. Tickets are available through the Center Theatre Group Audience Services at (213) 628-2772, the Center Theatre Group box office at the Music Center, www.CenterTheatreGroup.org and the box office two hours prior to performances.

Not graphic

To continue with our Sundance 2007 experience:

All the controversy over the rape scene of Dakota Fanning (who turns 13 next month) in "Hounddog" turns out to be much ado about nothing. The film's press screening drew so many reporters that festival volunteers had to bring in extra chairs. The scene in question was not graphic—the rape was merely suggested, with only brief shots of Dakota's face and her hand. Dakota's acting is remarkable but the film itself is not.

During this screening and in almost all the film showings we attended, CrackBerry addicts (folks hooked on BlackBerry) were an annoying presence. What could be so important that they had their BlackBerries on all the time, constantly checking them—therefore keeping on the glowing light of the devices?

We admit to being a CrackBerry ourselves but in Sundance, we ran into folks more addicted to the gadget. In one screening, a volunteer approached an offender who appeared to have no intention of turning off his device.

The slopes and ski lifts are virtually empty when the film fest is in progress, but Park City, Utah is a ski haven during the rest of winter. At Albertsons, the major supermarket, crutches are on display, as easy to pick up as milk or muffins, for skiers who hurt themselves.

Star-watch

Out-of-towners, including the stars, eventually find their way to Albertson's. The locals know this is one of the places for star-sighting during the fest.

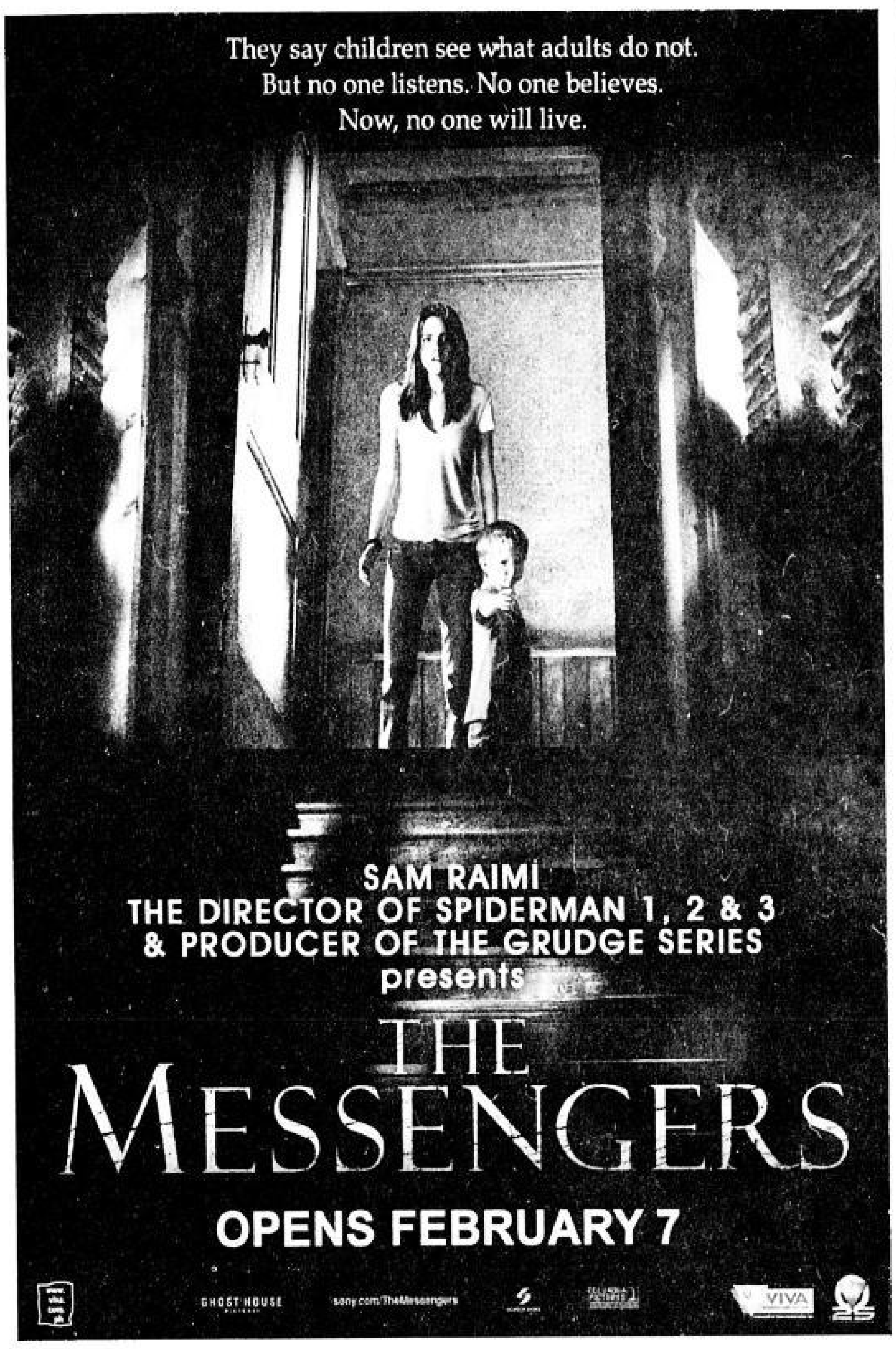
Virtually everyone on the streets or squeezing into the free shuttles are wearing credentials badges—press (there are different types:

MUCH ADO/ E6

DID YOU KNOW…

ENTERTAINMENT highlights during the week of Jan. 28-Feb. 3:

- **1948:** The first Emmy Awards were given for excellence in television.
- **1956:** Elvis Presley made his first national TV appearance on "The Dorsey Brothers Stage Show" on CBS.
- **1969:** The Beatles gave their last public performance, on the roof of Apple Studios. It was filmed for the movie "Let It Be."
- **1982:** "Late Night with David Letterman" premiered on NBC.
- **1995:** Twenty-seven-year-old Edward Burns won the Sundance Film Festival's Grand Jury Prize for his homemade movie "The Brothers McMullen."
- **2004:** Justin Timberlake ripped Janet Jackson's top during the Super Bowl halftime show and exposed her breast.


They say children see what adults do not.
But no one listens. No one believes.
Now, no one will live.
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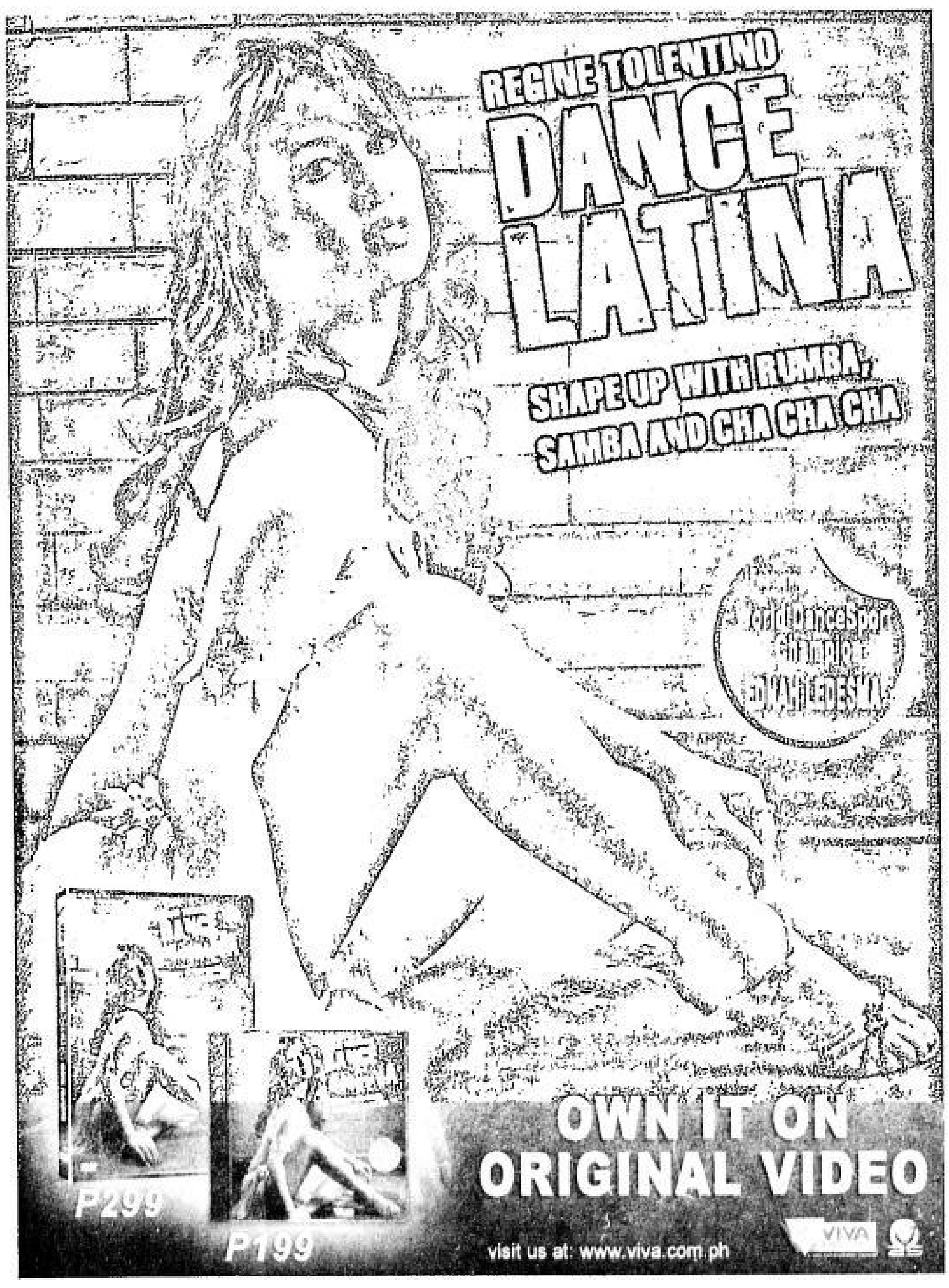
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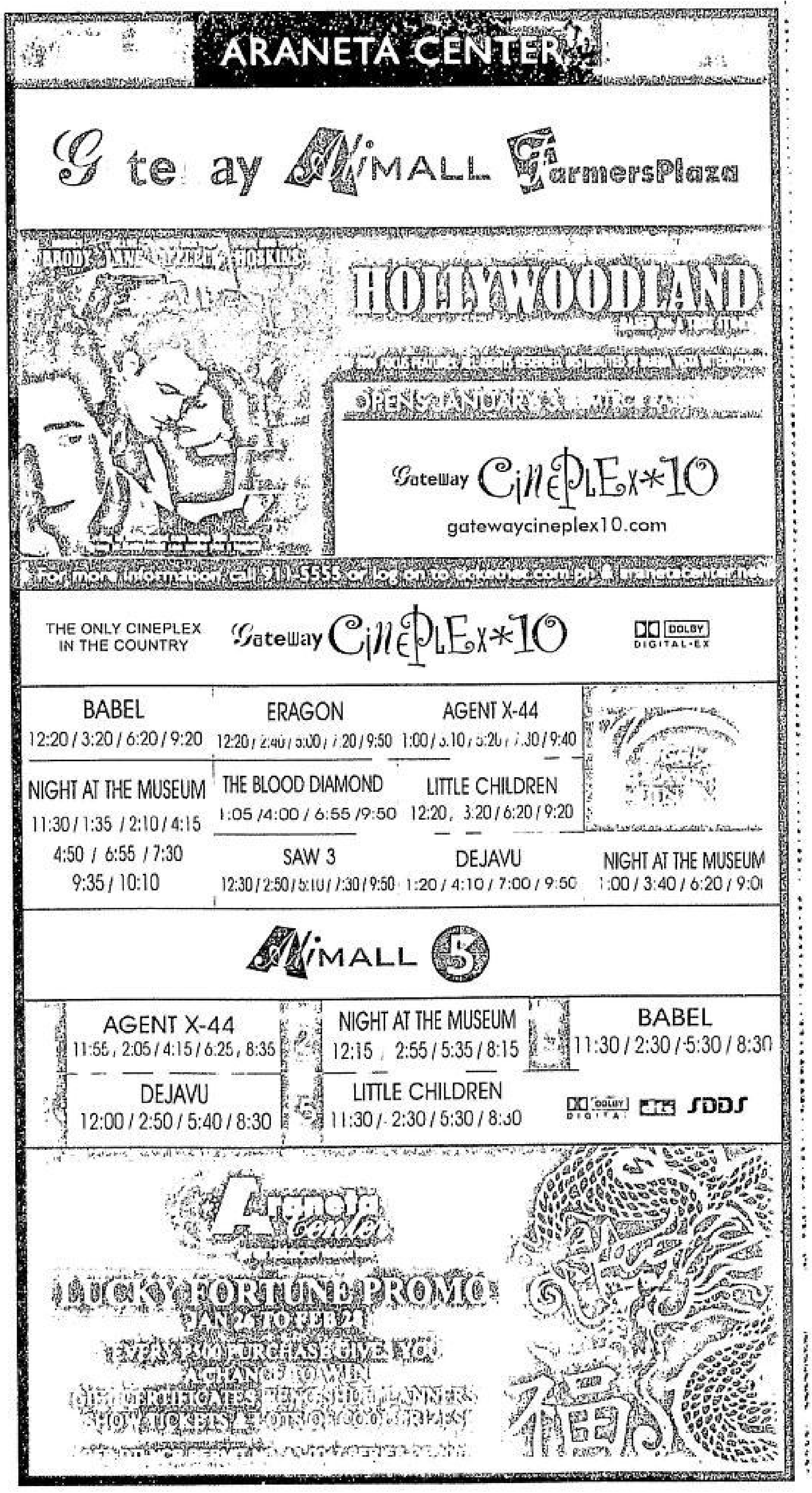
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BABEL
12:20 / 3:20 / 6:20 / 9:20
ERAGON
12:20 / 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:50
AGENT X-44
1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
11:30 / 1:35 / 2:10 / 4:15
4:50 / 6:55 / 7:30
9:35 / 10:10
THE BLOOD DIAMOND
1:05 / 4:00 / 6:55 / 9:50
LITTLE CHILDREN
12:20, 3:20 / 6:20 / 9:20
SAW 3
12:30 / 2:50 / 5:10 / 7:30 / 9:50
DEJAVU
1:20 / 4:10 / 7:00 / 9:50
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:0

ALIMALL 5

AGENT X-44
11:55 / 2:05 / 4:15 / 6:25 / 8:35
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
12:15 / 2:55 / 5:35 / 8:15
BABEL
11:30 / 2:30 / 5:30 / 8:30
DEJAVU
12:00 / 2:50 / 5:40 / 8:30
LITTLE CHILDREN
11:30 / 2:30 / 5:30 / 8:30

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX

BLOOD DIAMOND **R13** 12:50,3:50,6:50,9:50	**NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM** **G** 1:00,3:30,6:00,8:30	**BABEL** **PG13** 11:10,2:00,4:50, 7:40,10:30
DÉJÀ VU **PG13** 1:15,4:00,6:45,9:30	**LITTLE CHILDREN** **R18** 11:50,2:30, 5:10,7:50	**NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM** **G** 12:30,3:00,5:30, 8:00,10:30

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE: FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898-1440/41

SHANG CINEPLEX

① NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
MTRCB GP
12 20, 2:45, 5 10, 7·35, 10·00

③ NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
MTRCB GP
1.30, 3:55, 6 20, 8.45

② BABEL
MTRCB PG-13
12 35, 3 25, 6 15, 9 05

④ DÉJÀ VU
MTRCB PG-13
2 00, 4 40, 7 20, 10 00

PREMIERE THEATRE
LITTLE CHILDREN
MTRCB R-18
1 00, 4 00, 7 00, 10 00

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

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Shangri-La Plaza

Oscar winner Cuba Gooding Jr., center, with journalists Gabriel Lerman, left, and Munawar Hosain at "The Last Mimzy" premiere party.

Much ado about nothing over …

From page E5

working, general, festival ...), publicist, volunteer, etc. The badges announce one's name and affiliation (in large, black type). So a complete stranger could just come up, call out one's first name and ask, "So did **Leo (DiCaprio)** cancel himself out at the Globes (by his double nomination)?"

Newspapers and magazines are free all over the city. We came across favorable mentions by **Jason Sanders** on "Kubrador (Bet Collector)" and Fil-Am cinema talents in Filmmaker magazine: "…a Filipino focus that encapsulated everything from the street-level, Dardennes-brothers realism of **Jeffrey Jeturian**'s marvelous 'Bet Collector' to the goofy midlife-crisis-film-about-a-rock-band-starring-the-rock-band, Mike Sandejas' Just like Before (Tulad ng Dati) …"

Jason raved over "Colma," a film written by Northern California-based Fil-Am **H.P. Mendoza**: "Reviving that most despised of all genres, the musical, 'Colma' may take its name from the South San Francisco city-of-cemeteries that's notorious for having more dead than living, but its topic of post-high-school uncertainty and ennui is universal.

"Writer-star H.P. Mendoza's lyrics and score flow with a wit and rhythm reminiscent of the Magnetic Fields' **Stephin Merritt** (no small praise); actress **L.A. Renigen** gives off a charm and radiance that could burn through the South San Francisco fog; while director **Richard Wong** stays true to his 'every shot must mean something' mantra by fashioning a two-hour film that feels as tight as a music video."

Auraeus reports

We left Park City a day before **Auraeus Solito**, whose film "Tuli" is featured in the fest's Spectrum program, was to participate in a panel discussion titled "The Burden of Representation" at the Filmmaker Lodge. The director e-mailed us his thoughts and observations right after. In his closing, Auraeus included his ethnic name, Kanakan-Balintagos.

Auraeus wrote: "The panel discussion was moderated by **Heather Rae** who made the brilliant documentary film 'Trudell,' an overview of the life of Native American poet/activist **John Trudell**. With me in the panel were **Taika Waititi**, Maori filmmaker from New Zealand; **Sterlin Harjo**, Seminole filmmaker from Oklahoma; and **Billy Luther**, Native American filmmaker (whose touching documentary, 'Miss Navajo,' I got to watch) from the Navajo Nation.

"The Lodge was packed. The discussion had a lot of funny moments, personal reflections and touching insights on being filmmakers who are labeled because of our indigenous roots, religion and sexuality. Billy, whose mother was a former Miss Navajo, talked about his documentary which shows how the Miss Navajo pageant does not focus on outer beauty but on the ability of the candidates to know the culture of the Navajo people and on their fluency in the native language.

"Heather asked about our ancestral lands. I told the story of my people: the Palaw'an of South Palawan, how my mother told the myths of her people to lull me to sleep when I was a kid; how I rediscovered my roots after graduating from the University of the Philippines; how I documented the issues of my people (land grabbing in the '70s by rich Marcos cronies and the people not being allowed to fish by Pearl Farm in their native fishing grounds); and how, after I finished my documentary 'Basal Banar,' I was advised by our tribal leader to go back to the city, because I was starting to be 'too hot' in the community, amid rumors of death threats against me. On my return to Manila, I got to make my first two dramatic feature films, 'The Blossoming of Maximo Oliveros' and 'Tuli.'

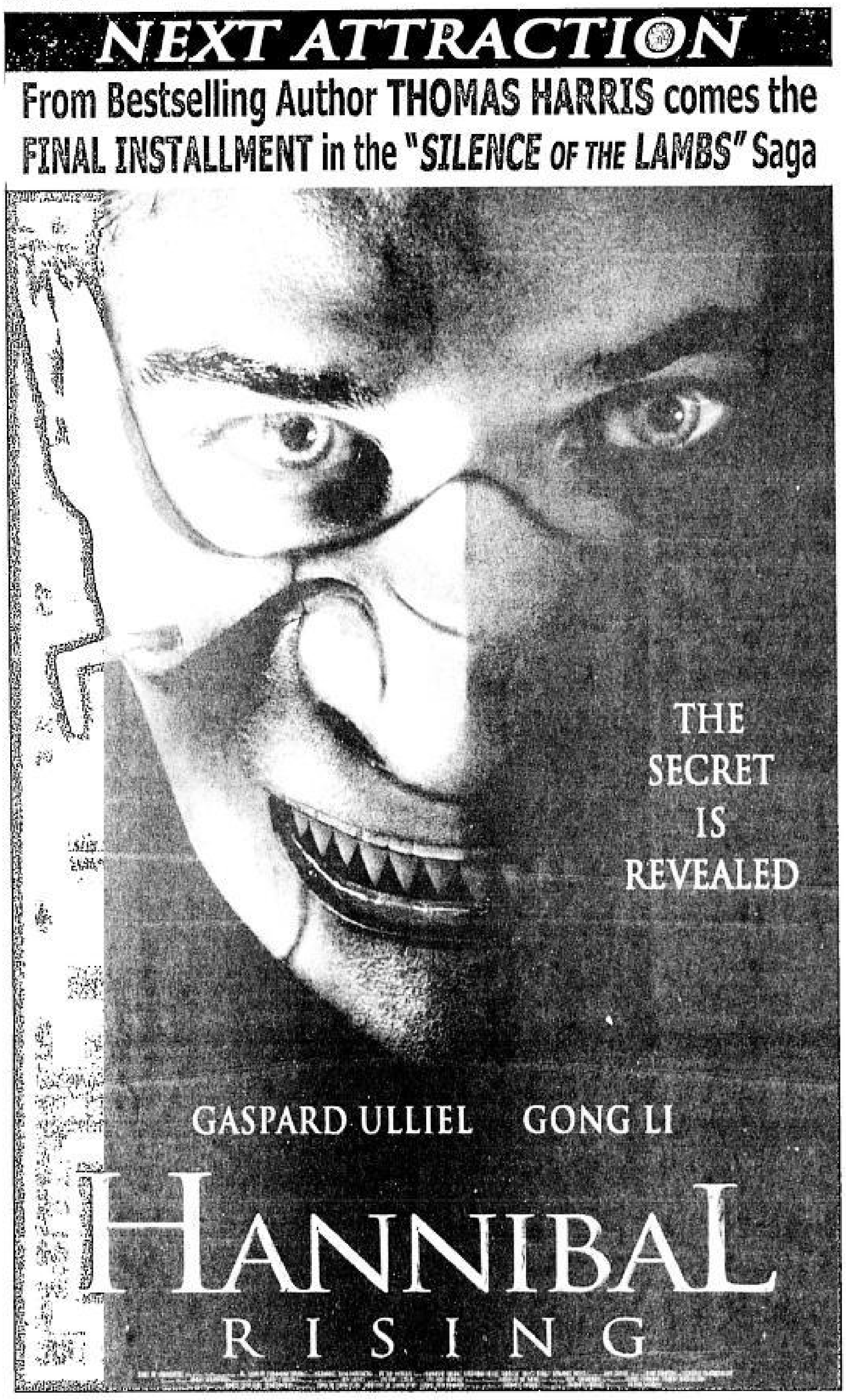
"I also mentioned that I was labeled as an 'openly gay filmmaker' just because the protagonists of my films were a gay boy (Maxi) and a strong lesbian ('Tuli'). And that when I was interviewed in the West (US, Canada and the UK) and I was asked if I was gay, I had no qualms in revealing who I was. Suddenly, all articles came out that I was an 'openly gay filmmaker.' I added at the discussion that it was ironic—in the Philippines, our sexuality didn't matter. I was simply a filmmaker."

Last night

We capped our last night in Sundance by attending the world premiere party for "The Last Mimzy." The film is directed by New Line CEO **Bob Shaye**. At the party held at the Bon Appétit Supper Club on Main Street, we saw **Samuel Jackson, Cuba Gooding, Timothy Hutton, Tara Reid** and **Giancarlo Esposito.**

On the day we left, we read a comment in a paper that the entire town was breathing a sigh of relief because so far no one in Park City had reported a Paris Hilton sighting.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.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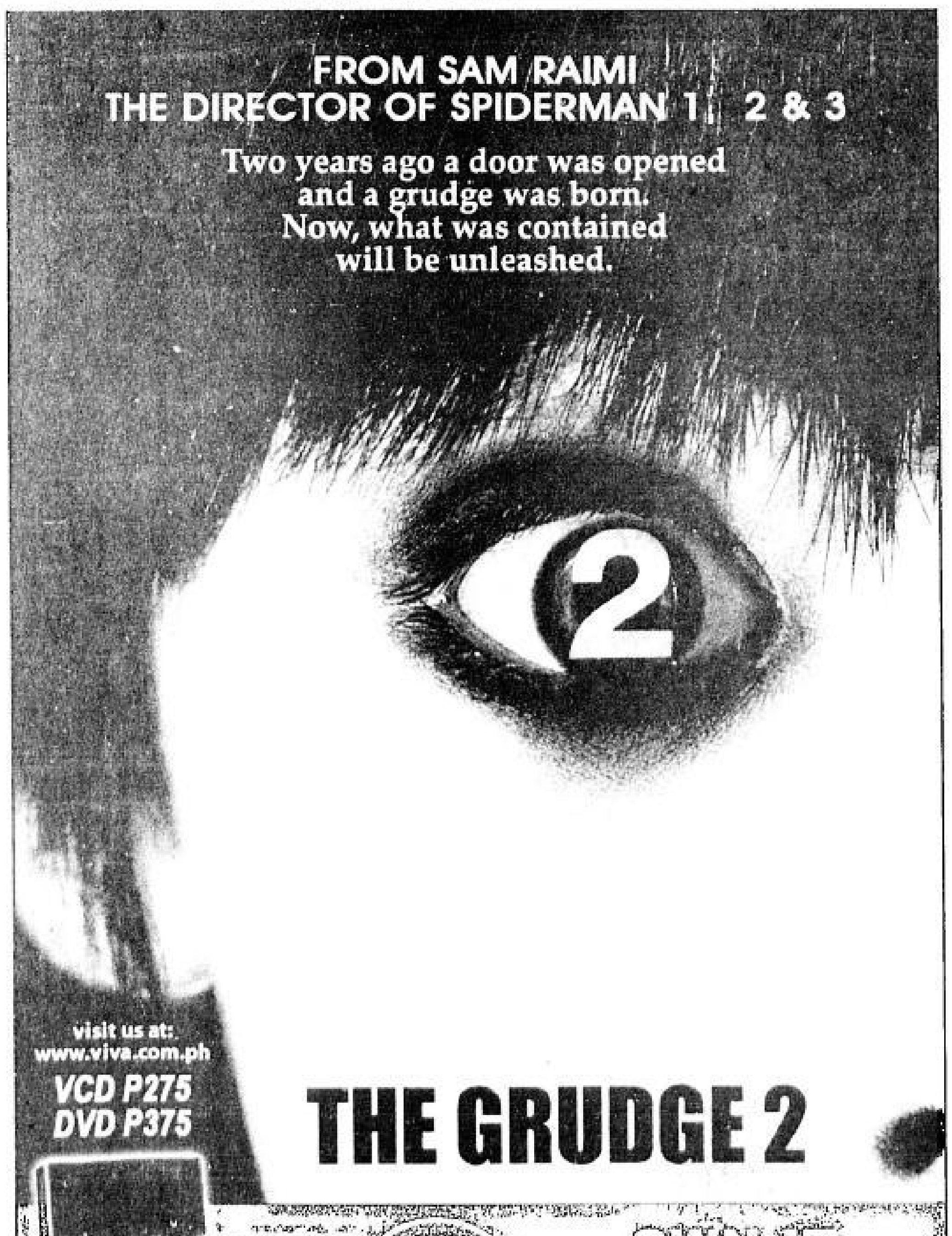
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ROUNDUP

Indie fest ongoing

Ongoing until Jan. 30 at the Robinsons Galleria IndieSine is "Bagong Agos: A Celebration of Films."

Presented by the Philippine Independent Filmmaker's Cooperative (IFC) and Robinsons, the film fest of Pinoy indie films will showcase movies like "Mga Pusang Gala," "Pepot Artista" and "Rigodon" on Sunday, "Sa North Diversion Road," "Cut" and "Masahista" on Monday and "Cavite," "Sarong Banggi" and "Tulad ng Dati" on Tuesday.

Tickets are at P100 per film and P80 for groups of 30. Call 395218 loc. 240.

Chinese films

"Spring Film Festival 2007 in Celebration of the Lunar Chinese New Year," organized by the Ateneo de Manila's Ricardo Leong Center for Chinese Studies, will be held at GateWay Cinepelex 10 from Feb. 15 to 18.

These films from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, and China, all in Mandarin Chinese with English subtitles, will be featured: "Sunflower," "Monkey King," "Xanda," "I Not Stupid," "Shanghai Dreams" and "Little Red Flowers."

For screening schedules, call 426-6001 loc. 5208 or 5209. Tickets are at P100.

Wanted: Musicians

First Name Entertainment & Management is looking for singers and musicians.

Interested parties may call Kae Tiambeng, tel. no. 725-3347.

Auditions are set Jan. 31 at J&G Music Studio, 56 Doña Hemady corner 18th Streets, New Manila, Quezon City.

Registration is from 6 to 7 p.m.

Ballroom champs

Tonet Maricuelo of Cebu City and Walter Gabato were named Anlene's Ballroom Dancing Champions, having bested more than 200 pairs and winning P100,000.

Divina Dimaano of Lipa, Batangas and Valentina Benitez came in second and third, respectively.

Lucy Torres-Gomez hosted the event. Jurors were Regine Tolentino, Audie Gemora, Edna Ledesma and Anlene assistant brand manager Cristine Ines Dizon.

LUCY Torres-Gomez flanked by winners Tonet Maricuelo and Walter Gabato

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CINEMA 1 DEJAVU 11:00 , 1:45 , 4:30 7:15 , 10:00 PG-13
CINEMA 2 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 10:30 , 1:20 , 4:10 7:00 , 9:50 GP
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CINEMA 3 LITTLE CHILDREN 10:30 , 1:25 , 4:25 7:25 , 10:25 R-18
CINEMA 4 BABEL 10:50 , 1:45 , 4:40 7:35 , 10:30 PG - 13
CINEMA 5 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 11:10 , 2:00 , 4:50 7:40 , 10:30 GP

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

Jan. 23 , 2007	Marissa Sanchez	8:30 PM
Feb. 02 & 03 , 2007	Piolo Pascual and Sam Milby	8:30 PM
Feb. 7 & 8 , 2007	Agot Isidro "Back to Basics"	8:30 PM
Feb 13 & 14 , 2007	Ogie Alcasid	8:00 PM

T·E·A·T·R·I·N·O
PROMENADE GREENHILLS

EVERY MONDAY	DANCE NIGHT	7:00 PM
JAN. 23 , 30 , 2007	DYORDS: KO PO	8:30 PM
JAN. 24, 2007	"PAKNERS" 9 Ball Celebrity Challenge	6:00 PM

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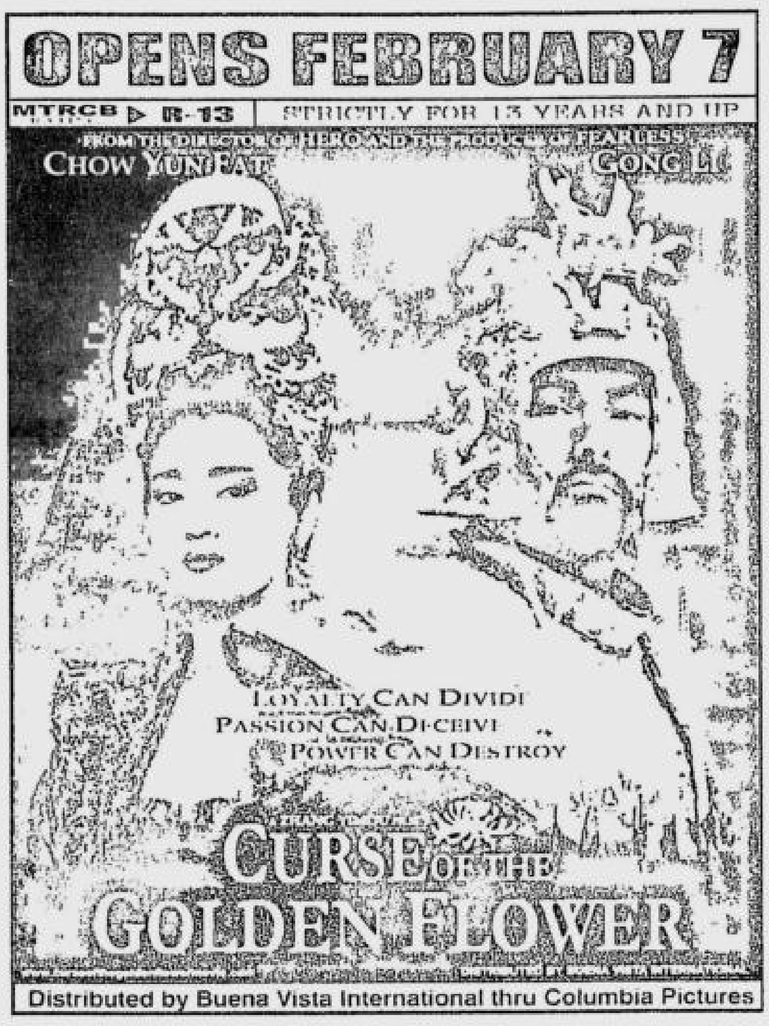

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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 DEJA VU • THX
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

2 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

3 indieSine's Digital Cinema
Bagong Agos Film Festival

4 BABEL
1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00

5 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

6 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

7 ERAGON
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

8 SAW 3 12:00 2:20 4:40
BLOOD DIAMOND 7:00 10:00

9 LITTLE CHILDREN
1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00

10 AGENT X44
12:30 ,2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
10:10 12:35 3:00 5:25 7:50 10:00

2 ROB-B-HOOD 12:00 2:50
SAW 3 5:20 7:35 9:50

3 BABEL
10:20 1:15 4:10 7:05 10:00

4 DEJA VU
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

5 LITTLE CHILDREN
10:10 1:05 4:00 6:55 9:50

6 AGENT X44
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

7 BLOOD DIAMOND 11:10 2:10
ERAGON 5:10 7:35 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 ROB-B-HOOD
1:10 3:40 6:20 9:00

2 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
1:15 3:50 6:25 9:00

3 AGENT X44
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

4 DEJA VU
12:45 3:30 6:15 9:00

5 SAW 3
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

6 LITTLE CHILDREN
12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00

7 ERAGON
12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00

8 KASAL, KASALI, KASALO
1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 DEJA VU
2 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
3 AGENT X44
4 SAW 3

PIONEER 687-5378

1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
1:15 3:45 6:15 8:40

2 BABEL
11:40 2:30 5:20 8:10

3 AGENT X44
1:40 4:00 6:20 8:40

4 LITTLE CHILDREN
11:40 2:30 5:20 8:10

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1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 SPIRIT TRAP
3 SAW 3
4 KAMASUTRA 3
5 AGENT X44

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 ZU WARRIORS
2 AGENT X44
3 A GOOD YEAR
4 SPIRIT TRAP
5 SAW 3

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 AGENT X44
2 KAMASUTRA 3
3 SAW 3
4 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 AGENT X44
3 KAMASUTRA 3
4 A GOOD YEAR

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 DEJA VU
2 SAW 3
3 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
4 AGENT X44

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-8270

1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 KAMASUTRA 3
3 AGENT X44
4 KASAL, KASALI, KASALO
5 SAW 3
6 A GOOD YEAR

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1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD 2
3 AGENT X44
4 DEJA VU
5 BORAT
6 SAW 3

ILOILO (033) 336-8076

1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 AGENT X44
3 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD 2
4 DEJA VU
5 BORAT
6 SAW 3

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JOHN LLOYD CRUZ
Ingat!
Para safe,
Paracetamol
BIOGESIC®
If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.

The one to trust is the number 1

In the Philippines, Biogesic is the no.1 most prescribed adult paracetamol brand that is the most tried and trusted for headache and fever. Manufactured by the leading pharmaceutical company Unilab, Biogesic has long been recognized for being the safe paracetamol. It is safe enough to be taken even on an empty stomach and is even recommended by doctors to pregnant women.

In its new advertising campaign, Biogesic heralds this strength of being the safe paracetamol. By tapping on the Filipino's fondness of imparting "ingat" which means to "take care" or "be safe", Biogesic has found an endearing way to tell its story of safety. And to further strengthen this story, the brand chose a personality who can credibly present it.

John Lloyd Cruz, one of the hottest and most bankable stars of local show business, is the new endorser of Biogesic Tablet. The prince of telenovelas and the heartthrob of the silver screen, John Lloyd is perfect for Biogesic. Remaining unaffected by the glamour of show business, John Lloyd is a caring son, brother, and friend. This is why he speaks truthfully when he talks about Biogesic, the medicine that safely relieves headache and fever.

In the newest Biogesic campaign, he likewise imparts "ingat!" and does it so sincerely because this is something that he grew up hearing from his loved ones. Raised in an environment of close family ties, John Lloyd has developed the habit of saying "ingat" to every person he cares about.

Para safe, Paracetamol Biogesic

As John Lloyd says in his Biogesic TV commercial, no matter how much you wish your loved ones and yourself to be safe, there are things like headache and fever that cannot be avoided. In John Lloyd's case, he can be very cautious but his grueling work schedule would sometimes render him susceptible to headaches and fever. Because of this, he has learned to bring Biogesic wherever he goes and takes it at the onset of every headache or fever experiences. Moreso, this is the only brand he can take as he is allergic to some brands of potent pain and fever medications sold in the market.

So be safe. And be reminded of it when John Lloyd Cruz wishes you "Ingat!" in his TV, radio, and print ads for Biogesic. Even when you travel around the metro, his new billboards will carry the same message of care and safety. And when you need an effective relief from headache or fever, ingat ka when choosing your medication. Para safe, Paracetamol Biogesic.

PARACETAMOL
BIOGESIC

Behind the scenes of the new BIOGESIC TV commercial featuring John Lloyd Cruz.
Lights, Camera, Ingat!

posing with Director George Agcaoili

rehearsing his lines with the Assistant Director

waiting for his cue

watch out for the new tv ad

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2007

"SA TATAG NG ATING PAMILYA ANUMANG UNOS, KAYA NATIN!"

Left-Right - Dr. Mia Gapuz *(President & CEO)*, Mrs. Evangeline A. Gapuz *(Vice-Chairman)*, Prof. Ray A. Gapuz *(Chairman)*, Engr. Ma. Elena Gapuz-Altarejos *(Vice-President)*

SA BAWAT PAGSUBOK AY MAY TAGUMPAY NA NAKALAAN. ISANG MALUGOD NA PAGBATI SA TAGUMPAY MO, RAGRC REVIEWEE!

Congratulations! RAGRC BOARD TOPNOTCHERS DECEMBER 2006 NLE and the 98% RAGRC Passers!

Jayben Perez Matamis	Unciano Colleges and Medical Center - RAGRC Manila	1st Place
Joanna Pauline Henson Lao	Baguio Central University - RAGRC Baguio	2nd Place
Grasheila Pia Cristi Silva	Brokenshire College - RAGRC Davao	4th Place
Eileen Marie Villasor Inong	Davao Doctors College - RAGRC Davao	7th Place
Chislon Mark David Maderazo Gabriola	Remedios T. Romualdez Medical Foundation - Millenium Tacloban	7th Place
Jenny Riza Abreu Banta	Baguio Central University - RAGRC Baguio	8th Place
Mike Sherwin Ortua Lazo	San Pedro College - RAGRC Davao	8th Place
Gay Alonzo Taboclaon	Cagayan Capitol College - Millenium CDO	9th Place
RAGRC Reviewee	RAGRC - Manila	10th Place

JAYBEN's TESTIMONIAL

JAYBEN P. MATAMIS
TOP 1 DECEMBER 2006 NLE

I'm Jayben P. Matamis...... Matabang man po ang kapalaran ng iba ay siya naman pong tamis ng aking kaligayahang tinatamasa ngayon. Masayang-masaya po ako at ako ang nag - Top 1 sa board exam, talagang napakabuti sa amin ni Lord, sa akin at sa aking buong pamilya. Ang lahat ng ito ay hindi ko maa-achieve kung wala ang tulong ng aking mga magulang, kapatid, kaibigan, ng R.A. Gapuz Review Center, ng aking school at higit sa lahat ng ating Panginoon. Nag-aral lng po ako ng mabuti at nag-basa ng maraming libro at isinakripisyo ang mga nakasanayan kong gawain. Una sa lahat ay ang paggising ng maaga kaysa dun sa nakasanayan kong gising. Nag-boarding house po ako sa Manila ng 1 ½ month para makapag-review. Di po talaga ako nakakapag-breakfast nuon kasi yung breakfast time ko inilalaan ko sa aking self-review before I go to SM Manila for my formal review. After our review in our school, nagdesisyon ako na dito na lang sa Manila mag-review. Alam ko po kasi na maganda ang track record ng R.A. Gapuz Review Center amidst the controversies kaya dito ako nag-review kasama ang ilang mga kaibigan na pumasa na rin po. Maraming salamat po sa aking mga magulang at kapatid na walang sawang sumuporta, kay Sir Ray Gapuz for all his wisdom that he imparted to us. Ipagpatuloy nyo lang po ang pagbibigay ng quality nursing review to all future nurses. Higit sa lahat salamat sa ating Panginoon, na patuloy sa paggabay sa akin at sa aking pamilya!.

JAYBEN's PARENTS Message

Mr. Benjamin L. Matamis and Mrs. Wilma P. Matamis

Kami po ay lubos na natutuwa sa pagiging Number 1 sa board exam ng aming anak na si Jayben! Hindi ako makapaniwala na sa out of 40,000 na nag-exam, yung anak ko ang nanguna. Talagang ako'y laging naiiyak at iyon ay di sa aming kakayahan at ng aming anak kundi ang Panginoon ang nagbigay nuon. Noon ngang magdesisyon siya na mag-review sa Maynila at sa R.A. Gapuz Review Center ay nasabi na lang naming sa kanya ay " Anak, di ba iyon yung review center na na-involve sa June 2006 controversy?" Hindi naman siya nagkamali ng desisyon kasi na-inspire sya sa pagtuturo ni Mr. Gapuz. Idol nga daw nya sya at gusto nya maging katulad ni Mr. Gapuz. Siya na po ang pinagdesisyon namin sa pagpili ng review center nya kasi siya naman ang nakakaalam kung ano ang gusto nya at di namin linya iyon.

Sa ganoong aspeto namin sinuportahan si Jayben. Binigyan naming siya ng moral support, prayers at financial support na rin. Kinuha namin sya ng boarding house sa Maynila para di na sya gaanong mapagod sa pagbiyahe at magkaroon pa siya ng time para makapagpahinga para sa kanyang pag-rereview. Nuon pa man masipag mag-aral si Jayben at alam naming ang kanyang ginawang effort na pag-pupuyat sa pag-aaral, pagbili ng maraming aklat na talagang naga-advance reading sya, kahit tapos na yung board exam ay basa pa rin sya ng basa para daw sa NCLEX exam ination. Nagpapasalamat din kami sa lahat ng taong tumulong at naging bahagi ng paghahanda ng aking anak para sa board exam. Maraming maraming salamat po!

Anuman ang Kuwento ng Buhay Mo, Sa R.A. Gapuz, BIDA KA DITO!

I am 35 years old, BSN second-courser kung tawagin. Married, may tatlong anak, self-employed. Nag-nursing ako dahil sa hirap ng buhay dito sa Pilipinas. Nagbabaka-sakali akong mabigyan ng mas magandang kinabukasan ang pamilya ko at mga anak. I graduated last April 2005. Nagbakasakali ako, nangarap na makapasa sa nursing board exam ng take one. Pero nakakahiya mang aminin, hindi ako sinuwerte. At the age of 35, nakakahiya na umulit ng board exams. Kinapos ako ng 2.4% para pumasa. Mahirap tanggapin kasi halos lahat ng kaklase at teacher sa school expected na papasa ako. Nasiraan ako ng loob at talagang handa ng sumuko. May kaklase ako na sa R.A. Gapuz nagreview para sa board exams. Not only did she pass, nataasan pa niya sa rating yung ibang honor graduate sa klase namin. Naintriga ako at naisip kong subukan na magenrol sa R.A.Gapuz Review Center.

Nagsikap akong doblehin ang pagpupursigi sa pagrereview. Nagsakripisyo akong mapalayo sa pamilya at tumira sa Manila para hindi naman mapagod ang katawan sa malayong pagbiyahe mula sa tinitirhan namin sa Bulacan. Nagtiis akong kumain ng noodles sa umaga, tanghali at gabi para lang makatipid. Nagsunog din po ng kilay at talagang nagpursiging mag-aral.

Sa awa ng Diyos po at sa tulong ni Mr. Gapuz, I passed the board exams. And this time, hindi lang po ako pasang-awa – 78.4% pa po ang rating ko.

Sa inyo po sa R.A. Gapuz Review Center, taus-puso at walang katupusang pasasalamat, saludo at paghanga. Kundi po sa inyong pagtitiyaga at pagtulong sa mga tulad kong halos mawalan na ng pag-asa, baka hanggang ngayon po ay mugto pa ang mga mata ko sa pag-iyak.

MARICEL QUITALIG po... Registered Nurse na ngayon... CERTIFIED GAPUZ BABY!

Ako po si RONNIE DE VERA.. Taos puso po akong nagpapasalamat sa inyo sir ray. Lubos po ang kagalakan ng aking mga magulang at kapatid sa aking pong pagkakapasa.

Despite the issues ay ngpapasalamat ako sa Diyos at may mga taong nagtiwala sa akin. Ako po ngayon ay isang preceptor sa akin din pong Alma Mater. I am presently supervising 3rd and 4th year students sa kanilang clinical exposures. My track record sa college and my performance sa board exams is enough daw para I-hire ako. I am so thankful at in house review center namin kayo.

The lectures during our sunday reviews helped us with our subjects in school. From then on gapuz babies na po kami till the very end. Right now I am carrying on the mission to help future RN become a safe practicing nurse. I am incorporating everything that I have learned from you sir and from your highly competent reviewers.

I consider my experience sa inyo as something that I will forever cherish. Dahil po sa inpiring words ninyo, I was able to motivate myself to work hard and strive for the best

You are such a prized possesion to the nursing profession. Continue to mold minds and inspire students and nurses so that we will be united and not be divided. Your leadership has always been a tremendous boost to the NURSING PROFESSION.

RONNIE DE VERA po.... Registered Nurse na ngayon... CERTIFIED GAPUZ BABY!

It was one of the best decisions that we made. Our nursing school forced us to enroll in a review center of their choice, but when my boyfriend and I saw your AD we knew that your review center is the best there is here in the Philippines. We went to the extent of lying to our Professors for them to let us go and review

We were so amazed on how we quickly and accurately retained all that you said without memorizing much and without fussing over our notes, it was then that we said to ourselves that you are the best lecturer that there is. And sure enough, we passed without sweat because of you. My boyfriend and I then, spread the word to everyone we know on how great you are when it comes to reviewing us, with your uncanny humor, intelligence and techniques.

We are already scheduled to take the NCLEX in Hongkong. Only one review center came to mind... still, RA GAPUZ.. solid!! We have so much faith and confidence in you Sir Ray, that we considered nothing else. We would gladly entrust in your hands our future. Unlike the local boards, this was no walk in the park for me, for I got sick the second week of our comprehensive review, when you were discussing all about diseases. I still attended your class, though I was often seen by your staff, sleeping outside our classroom. Luckily, my boyfriend listened well and took notes.

I completely relied on what knowledge I have left in me, trying to remember everything that you discussed and that you imparted in me plus the 7 habits that you taught us. It worked!!! Praise GOD!!!

To all the reviewees of RA GAPUZ, first and foremost, we want to congratulate you in advance for making such a great choice when it comes to the review center. Put your trust in Sir Ray for he won't let you down, he always has our best interest at heart and you can never see a reviewer more dedicated to his craft than Sir Ray.

STEPHANIE IVY O. SCHUCK and AREEN EARL A. YATCO po... Registered Nurses na po ngayon ..... CERTIFIED GAPUZ BABIES!

I'm Jik Mahal Lajik F. Samain 33 years old. I was a reviewee of Gapuz Review Center wayback in 2004 for my Local Board Exam & 2005 for my CGFNS. I wasn't able to thank you personally but I have my own way of appreciating what you did to me. I got 83.80 for my local board & 460 pts. for my CGFNS.

I'm so proud to say that I'm a Gapuz baby everytime I got a chance to talk to any nursing students or graduate nurses as well, I share to them how you help me and the others in passing the exam without straining our minds & body.

Para akong walking advertisement ng RAGRC at marami na rin akong narecruite, including my friends, my uncle Esteban Ferrer, lahat sila pumasa, and the latest is my mother Pilar G. Ferrer who handed you this letter.

Sir pinagtatanggol kita pagsinasabi nila na my leakage daw tayo. I explain to them na pag nakuha nila ang style mo like the prioritization, proper diet, proper positioning, normal values etc. Kahit paikut-ikutin pa ang tanong, di ka maliligaw. napatunayan ko yun, not once but twice.

Sir, I'm so happy to inform you that my application for NewYork has been approved and I'm scheduled for an interview at the U.S. Embassy on September. I hopefully i will be in NewYork together with my husband & 16 yrs. old daughter by October if God will allow, sabay sabay n kami.

Talagang pag mabunga ang puno, binabato, a lot of people loves you and we do believe in you they can't put a good man down, you're truly an angel in disguise.

Thank you very much for reading my letter. Attach herewith is our picture during our Local Review in 2004. Lahat ng nasa picture nakapasa, most of them nasa U.S. na ako po yung naka red na jacket sa tabi nyo remembrance ko po yan sa inyo sana idisplay nyo rin. Hahaha. Good Health po sir & God Bless you & your Family!

JIK MAHAL LAJIK F. SAMAIN po... US RN napo ngayon... CERTIFIED GAPUZ BABY!

R.A. GAPUZ REVIEW CENTER

Transforming Nurses' Dreams Into Reality...

2007 SCHEDULES

CGFNS REVIEW

	Compre	IFC
Manila	Feb. 05-15	March 05-13
Baguio	Jan. 30- Feb.13	March 05-13
Dagupan	Jan. 31 - Feb. 12	March 05-13
Cebu	Feb. 02 - Feb. 13	Feb. 23 - March 01
Davao	Feb. 05 - Feb. 16	Feb. 24 - March 02

NCLEX REVIEW

	Compre	IFC
Manila	Feb. 05 - Feb. 15	March 17 - 21
Baguio	Jan. 30 - Feb. 13	March 20 - 24
Dagupan	Jan. 31 - Feb. 12	March 20 - 24
Cebu	Feb. 02 - Feb. 13	March 15 - 19
Davao	Feb. 05 - Feb. 16	March 15 - 19

LOCAL-RN REVIEW

	Compre	IFC
Manila(Weekdays)	April 01 - May 23	May 25 - May 31
(Weekends)	April 01 - May 24	May 25 - May 31
Baguio	April 12 - May 11	May 12 - May 27
Dagupan	April 10 - May 10	May 12 - May 27
Cebu	April 23 - May 17	May 22 - May 31
Davao	April 21 - May 18	May 19 - May 28

IELTS REVIEW Jan. 28-31, FEB. 16-18, MAR. 23-25, APR. 21-23, MAY 18-20, JUNE 22-24

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Bulacan:	March 3, 2007	Iloilo:	March 16, 2007
Laguna:	March 4, 2007	Davao:	Feb. 17,2007
Olangapo:	March 9, 2007	Gen. Santos:	Mar. 1, 2007

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NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION FIELD OFFICE
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MIRIAM MIRALLES MICKELSON,
Complainant,
-versus-
ROVEL DESIERDO TOMAMBO,
Respondent.
x- -x

HLURB CASE NO. REM-061606-13379

ORDER

Finding merit on complainant's Ex-Parte Motion To Serve Summons By Publication, the same is hereby GRANTED. Accordingly, respondent Rovel Desierdo Tomambo is hereby summoned and required to file his written answer or comment or counter-affidavit to the complaint within twenty (20) days from the completion of the publication of this Order with Summons. No motion to dismiss shall be allowed but any ground proper for said motion, as well as counter-claims, cross-claim and third party complaint must pleaded in the same answer otherwise the same shall be considered barred. If respondent fails to submit his answer, comment or counter-affidavit, the complainant shall take judgment by default against him.

WHEREFORE, let this Order with Summons, together with a copy of the complaint be served by publication once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation.

The complainant is further ordered to serve a copy of this Order with Summons and the complaint to respondent Rovel Desierdo Tomambo through registered mail at his last known address.

The cost of publication shall be shouldered by the complainant.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Quezon City, December 29, 2006

ROWENA C. BALASOLLA
Housing and Land Use Arbiter

Approved By:

JESSE A. OBLIGACION
Regional Director

Copy furnished
JIMENEZ LAW OFFICE
Suite 1102 Antel Global Corporate Center
Julia Vargas Avenue corner Meralco Avenue
Ortigas Center Pasig City MM

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Office of the President
Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council
HOUSING AND LAND USE REGULATORY BOARD
Quezon City

MIRIAM MIRALLES MICKELSON,
Complainant,
-versus-
ROVEL DESIERDO TOMAMBO,
Respondent.
x- -x

HLURB CASE NO. REM-061606-13379
(For Cancellation of Real Estate License No. IV-08-027-2004 and Real Estate Registration No. IV-08-02-2004)

COMPLAINT

I, **MIRIAM MIRALLES MICKELSON,** natural born Filipino citizen and naturalized American citizen, of legal age, married, with postal address c/o ATTY. DANIELITO D. JIMENEZ, 1102 Antel Global Corporate Center, Julia Vargas corner Meralco Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, after having been duly sworn to in accordance with law, depose and say that:

1.) I am charging Respondent ROVEL DESIERDO TOMAMBO ("Respondent") for dishonesty and unworthiness to transact as a Licensed Real Estate Broker by abusing its use and consequently invoke the authority of this Office pursuant to Section 12 of the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of PD 957 to revoke the registration and license of Respondent issued pursuant to P.D. 957. A copy of such registration is hereto attached as Annex "A".

For purposes of this complaint for cancellation of Real Estate License and Real Estate Registration, Respondent may be served with the subpoena of this Office at 23-0 BCT, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., San Lorenzo Makati City.

2.) The circumstances surrounding the commission of the above violations warranting the cancellation of the above license and registration is hereby briefly summarized as follows, to wit:

2.1) Sometime prior to February 2003 several emails and exchanges of communications ensued between and among Respondent and one Cheyenne Morrison ("Cheyenne"), an agent of Respondent, and me and my husband David Mickelson. Respondent persistently convinced us to purchase a beach front property in the Philippines. He claimed that he had sold many beach fronts and islands in the Philippines as he is duly authorized by his license and registration to do so. He even maintained a web site to that effect. Also, we were shown a video clip of a beachfront property in Vigan, Bebeladan, El Nido, Palawan that was taken on 18 February 2003 as well as pictures taken on 27 & 28 March 2003 by Respondent's agents. One of the pictures of the beach front he sent us in a CD is shown below.

Respondent categorically represented that he possesses such capacity to broker the sale of the above property and persistently invoked that he is a duly licensed real estate broker in the Philippines (although it later appeared that his real estate license and registration have been issued in 2004) and that he can sell ½ of a supposed divided portion of a property equivalent to FORTY SIX THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED NINE (46,209) Square Meters of a certain real property located in the Sitio of Vigan, Barangay Bebeladan, El Nido, Palawan.

2.2) On account of the above representations, I along with my husband designated Respondent to act as our broker for the purchase of the above property. Thus, I and my husband along with our son went to Manila on April 2, 2003 to look at and purchase the above Vigan property. Cheyenne met us at the international airport. Meanwhile, I designated my husband to act for and on my behalf for the above transaction while me and our son, Zachary, went to Cebu to see my family.

2.3) Cheyenne and my husband proceeded to Las Palmas Hotel in Malate, where Respondent and his agent, Cheyenne Morrison were staying (in the same room). It is there that they also booked a room for my husband.

2.4) It is there that my husband personally met Respondent who showed to my husband David all their listings of properties for sale in the El Nido area (Palawan) – including the above Vigan property covered by a declaration of real property tax number 005-0049-A under the name of Nilda O. Reynoso. Inexperienced with real property transactions in the Philippines, my husband and me relied on the representations of Respondent that such declaration is evidence of ownership and that he is licensed to transact with the same, among other things.

A copy of the above declaration is hereto attached as Annex "B" to form an integral part hereof.

2.5) Upon instructions of Respondent, Cheyenne and my husband then flew to El Nido in the morning of April 3, 2003 to show to us the above property for sale in the area from April 3 to 6, 2003.

2.6) A certain Edgar Lim ("Lim") likewise an agent of Respondent picked up Cheyenne and my husband at the El Nido airport. In the course of all these events, Respondent as well as his agents and cohorts represented that the above cited portion of the above property was fully titled in the name of Nilda Reynoso and that the title could be quickly transferred to me within a few weeks.

2.7) Accordingly, my husband acting on my stead, also met with Nilda Reynoso (supposed owner) and her husband. They walked along the entire perimeter of the property showing my husband the corner markers of the above property. They also gave my husband a subdivision map showing the boundaries and dimensions of the property.

A copy of the supposed subdivision plan is hereto attached as Annex "C" to form an integral part hereof.

2.8) David then called me from El Nido using Cheyenne's cell phone in the evening of April 5, 2006 and discussed the Vigan property. Relying on the representations of Respondent and his agents as regards the supposed title and subdivision plan shown to us, we then proceeded with the purchase of the same under my name and a Deed of Absolute Sale was accordingly signed by Reynoso.

2.9) It is well to note that Respondent was the one who gave the go signal for his agents to proceed with the transaction and agreed to the negotiated selling price of Php 4 Million (Philippine Peso) as Respondent represented himself as an accredited and well known and established Real Estate Broker operating Elysian Fields Realty Services, a single proprietorship.

2.10) Thus, full payment was effected on April 7, 2003 which was received by Respondent's agent's handwritten payment receipt. During the morning of said date, Cheyenne, Edgar Lim, Nilda, her husband, and my husband personally went to see a certain Atty. Oscar Palomar in El Nido, to whom the Deed of Absolute Sale was subscribed. Respondents' agents along with Nilda Reynoso were supposed to hand carry the Deed of Absolute Sale to Puerto Princesa for filing.

A copy of the above Deed is hereto attached as Annex "D" to form an integral part hereof.

2.11) As priorly agreed upon, I directed my husband to then give Nilda $9,000 USD cash, and give Respondent through Cheyenne two checks totaling $65,000 USD plus $762 USD cash to make up the difference, for a total payment of $74,726 USD. Full payment was made after receipt of the Deed of Absolute Sale. Notably, the last paragraph of Cheyenne's receipt states "I accept said payment on behalf of Mr. Rovel Tomambo, of Elysian Fields Realty Services ..." Also, the receipt unequivocally stated that the same is supposed to be held in trust by Respondent (as he acted as our broker). Also, Cheyenne subsequently couriered the said funds to Respondent which was supposed to be held by him in a trust account for our behalf until the title was to be transferred in my name.

A copy of the receipt showing such fact and undertaking is hereto attached as Annex "E" to form an integral part hereof.

2.12) Cheyenne and David then returned to Manila on April 8, 2003 and again met Respondent at Las Palmas Hotel in Malate. There and then, David personally witnessed Respondent's agent, Cheyenne, hand the two checks to Respondent in view of the position held by Respondent as our broker. Later it appeared that instead of depositing the above funds ($65,000.00 USD) in an escrow account in trust for me and David, the above two checks were endorsed by Respondent and deposited into his personal bank accounts as follows:

a.) Harborstone Draft No. 897253 in the amount of $ 60,000.00 USD to Philippine Veteran's Bank Palawan Branch under Account No. 03407-0000123 (Endorsed and signed by Rovel Tomambo)

b.) Harborstone Draft No. 897256 in the amount of $ 5,000.00 USD to First Union National Bank then EPCI Bank in Iloilo under Account No. 2000-1911-3126-4 (Endorsed and signed by Rovel Tomambo)

Copies of the above drafts and their respective transfer to the personal account of respondent are hereto attached as Annexes "F" and "G" to form integral parts hereof.

2.13) Despite several follow ups with Respondent through emails for several months, the title supposedly transferred in my name was never delivered as it later appeared that the supposed subdivided portion was undivided and yet to be segregated from its mother title. Also, it was apparent that Respondent could not and did not have such capacity to transfer such title in my name.

A copy of the undivided title of the property covered by Certificate of Title No. G-387 otherwise known as Assessor's Lot No. 002, Block No. 12, situated in the Sitio of Vigan, Barangay Bebaladan, El Nido, Palawan, assessed and declared under Tax Declaration No. 005-0049-A (PIN 066-13-005-12-002), issued by the Provincial Assessor of the Province of Palawan is hereto attached as Annex "H" to form an integral part hereof.

2.14) Meanwhile, Respondent who supposedly held the money in trust could not account for the above funds. Also, despite demand to return and notice of revocation of his designation as broker, Respondent failed and still fails to return the above funds held in trust.

A copy of the demand letter delivered to said Respondent is hereto attached as Annex "I" to form an integral part hereof.

3) As a final note, Respondent's acts of a.) misrepresenting to me and my husband that he possesses such expertise to deal by being a duly registered and licensed real estate broker in the Philippines (although in 2003 he appear not to have any license yet and assuming he had such license, the same was however limited to engaging in the business of selling subdivision lots and condominium units in accordance with Sec. 11 of the Revised Rules Implementing P.D. 957 and should not have been used to make it appear that such registration authorized him to engage in the sale of the subject property which apparently cannot be sold); and b.) promising that he will merely hold the funds in trust, which representations enticed me and my husband to simultaneously deliver to said Respondent the above funds amounting to $ 65,000.00 USD; and c.) in subsequently refusing to return the same amount supposedly held in trust despite demand and cancellation of his representation, undoubtedly and sufficiently demonstrated his unworthiness to engage in the business of broker in the Philippines warranting the cancellation of his real estate license and registration. By abusing the use and issuance of such license and registration, Respondent clearly made numerous misrepresentations and displayed his dishonesty and unworthiness to be issued such license and registration. The deceit employed by him did not only damage us but has clearly damaged the reputations of how the public (and foreigners) perceive licensed real estate brokers in the Philippines.

4.) I am executing this Affidavit to attest to the truth of all the foregoing and for the purpose of seeking the removal of Respondent's name from the Register of Dealers and Brokers of This Board and cancellation of Respondent's Real Estate License No. IV-08-027-2004 and Real Estate Registration No. IV-08-02-2004 issued pursuant to Section 3(e) and (ee) of Act 2728 as amended, Executive Order No. 913, Series of 1983, E.O. No. 133 and 242 Series of 1987, and P.D. 957 as well as forfeiture of bond previously filed. Pending proceedings, I am likewise seeking for the immediate suspension and issuance of a cease and desist order against Respondent to prevent him from continuously discharging his Office as a registered real estate broker of the Republic of the Philippines and making it appear to the public that his license was issued pursuant to an authority to sell islands and beach fronts in the Philippines as demonstrated in his website then www.palawanrealty.com.

(VERIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION OF NON-FORUM SHOPPING)

5.) I further certify and affirm that as complainant in the above case, I caused the preparation of the foregoing complaint.

6.) I further attest that I have not commenced a similar, related or any other proceeding involving the same subject matter, issues or causes of action before any other court, administrative tribunal or agency in the Philippines and to the best of my knowledge, no such other similar complaint for cancellation is pending before any court, administrative tribunal or agency.

7.) If I hereafter learn of any such similar complaint, I undertake to report that fact within five (5) days to this Honorable Board.

8.) I further certify that the foregoing complaint are true and correct of my own knowledge and authentic documents and records.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my signature this 06 day of APR 2006, at Pasig City.

Miriam M. Mickelson
MIRIAM M. MICKELSON
Adverse Claimant

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO, before me a Notary Public for and in the City of Pasig this 06 day of APR 2006, personally came and appeared before me the affiant, with Passport No. MM588297 issued on 2 March 2004 and valid until 2 March 2009 at Philippine Consulate General, San Francisco, United States of America.

DANIELITO D. JIMENEZ
NOTARY PUBLIC
UNTIL DECEMBER 31 2006
PTR NO. 2999457/01-20-06/PASIG
IBP NO. 03229/RIZAL

Doc. No. 133.
Page No. 28.
Book No. X.
Series of 2006.

ASSISTED BY:

JIMENEZ LAW OFFICE
Counsel for Complainant
Suite 1102 Antel Global Corporate Center
Julia Vargas Avenue cor. Meralco Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City MM

By:

DANIELITO D. JIMENEZ
PTOR NO. 2999457/01 30.2006/Pasig
IBP LRN NO. 03229/Rizal
ROLL NO. 43303

(PDI - Jan. 28, 2007)

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

ITB NO.: 01-08-2007 HER

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), through its Branch Bids and Awards Committee (BBAC), is inviting janitorial service contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : One (1) lot Janitorial Service — Casino Filipino – Heritage
Required Personnel: 88 janitors

Approved Budget : Twenty Nine Million Eight Hundred Sixty Three Thousand One Hundred Ninety Four & 24/100 Pesos (Php 29,863,194.24)

Contract Duration : Two (2) years

Source of Fund : Internally Funded

Only suppliers duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered suppliers must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila., Tel. No. 526-0573.

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	January 19, 2007 - February 9, 2007
2. Pre-Bid Conference	January 29, 2007 (2pm)
3. Submission of Bids	February 12, 2007 (2 pm)
4. Opening of Bids	February 12, 2007 (2 pm onwards)

Bid documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of ***Fourteen Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty One & 60/100 Pesos (Php 14,931.60)***. In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BAC Secretariat Unit, PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila or at the Branch Procurement and Property Office – Casino Filipino-Heritage.

PAGCOR assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

PAGCOR reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Please address all communications to the BBAC Secretariat, Casino Filipino-Heritage.

(Sgd.) **CESAR PASCUAL**
Chairperson, BBAC Heritage

(PDI – Jan. 21 & 28, 2007))

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project/Location/ Brief Description	Aircraft Charter Providers for the transport of currency/gold requirements to and from the various BSP Regional Offices/Branches, per BSP terms of reference
Approved Budget for the Contract	A. P23,300,000.00 for Small Aircraft B. 21,400,00.00 for Big Aircraft } indicative only
Completion date	One (1) year contract reckoned from the date of execution of the contract

Prospective bidders should have completed at least three (3) similar contracts for the last five (5) years whose aggregate contract amount should be equivalent to at least 50% of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to be bid and that the largest of these similar contracts must be equivalent to at least 25% of the ABC; The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	29 January - 8 February 2007, up to 2:00 P.M. only
2. Pre-bid Conference	9 February 2007, 11:00 A.M.
3. Opening Bids	27 February 2007, 2:00 P.M.
4. Bid Evaluation	) These shall be in accordance with the prescribed) periods allowed in the Implementing Rules &) Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003
5. Post-qualification	
6. Notice of Award	

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of 0.05% of the total ABC's of items to be bid out, to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.**
Chairman

(PDI – Jan. 28, 2007)

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Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

ITB NO.: 01-01-2007 TAG

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), is inviting janitorial service contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : One (1) lot Janitorial Service – Casino Filipino-Tagaytay
Required Personnel: 49 janitors

Casino Filipino-Tagaytay (Main)	: 40 janitors
Slot Machine VIP Club San Pedro	5 janitors
Slot Machine VIP Club Bacoor	4 janitors

Approved Budget : Eleven Million Nine Hundred Forty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Five & 60/100 Pesos (Php 11,947,395.60)

Contract Duration : Two (2) years

Source of Fund : Internally Funded

Only suppliers duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered suppliers must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila., Tel. No. 526-0573.

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	January 19, 2007 - February 9, 2007
2. Pre-Bid Conference	January 30, 2007 (2pm)
3. Submission of Bids	February 12, 2007 (2 pm)
4. Opening of Bids	February 12, 2007 (2 pm onwards)

VENUE: Casino Filipino-Tagaytay

Bid documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of ***Five Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Three & 70/100 Pesos (5,953.70)***. In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BAC Secretariat Unit, PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila or at the Branch Procurement and Property Office – Casino Filipino-Tagaytay.

PAGCOR assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

PAGCOR reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Please address all communications to the BBAC Secretariat, Casino Filipino-Tagaytay.

(Sgd.) **DELIO N. MAGSUMBOL**
Chairperson, BBAC Tagaytay

(PDI – Jan. 21 & 28, 2007))

WINROCK INTERNATIONAL
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INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Alliance for Mindanao and Multi-Regional Off-grid Renewable Energy (AMORE 2) Program is a five (5) year project implemented by Winrock International (WI) in partnership with US Agency for International Development (USAID), Department of Energy (DOE), Mirant Philippines Foundation, and the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed between Winrock and DOE on December 18, 2006 to provide basic electricity service for household needs through development and utilization of environment-friendly and renewable-based small-scale hydro power systems thru the provision of funds from DOE's Remote Area Electrification Subsidy (RAES) Program.

The objective of this procurement is to solicit responsive offers from qualified bidders to submit proposals on the construction and commissioning of micro hydro power (mHp) in three (3) sites in the Province of Maguindanao.

Expression of Interest (EOI) must be made in writing and delivered, emailed, or faxed to the address indicated below no later than 5:00 pm of February 12, 2007.

Amore Office
Unit 1509 Jollibee Plaza
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600

Tel. No. +63 (2) 687-9091 to 92
Fax. No. +63 (2) 631-8215

All EOIs shall be evaluated by the AMORE Technical Review and Awards Team. A complete set of Request for Proposal (RFP) kit is available in the AMORE Office or may be downloaded at AMORE website: www.amore.org.ph on February 05, 2007. A pre-bid conference shall be held on February 15, 2007 at 10:00 AM on the above address to discuss details and accommodate inquiries. Pre-qualified organizations shall be notified via fax or e-mail.

Deadline of submission of bid proposal will be on February 21, 2007 on or before 12:00 pm. Please refer to RFP kits for specific guidelines on proposal submission.

WI reserves the right to reject any or all applications for pre-qualification, waive any required formality therein, and accept the bid and award the subcontract to the most advantageous offer to the project. WI assumes no responsibility to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred for the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee an award will be made.

(PDI–Jan. 28, 2007)

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TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply and Delivery of Transmission Steel Towers and Line Materials Including Installation for the following Portions of Transmission Lines Damaged by Typhoon "Reming":

PACKAGE A – Naga – Labo Transmission Line (Sp06.NLTL.Lt-0090); and
PACKAGE B – Tiwi Plant C – Naga Transmission Line (Sp06.TPCNTL.Lt-0091)
PACKAGE C – Tiwi Plant A – Daraga, Naga – Daraga & Bacman – Daraga Transmission Line (Sp06.TPADNDBDTL.Lt-0092)

1. The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION (TRANSCO)**, through its **Annual Corporate Budget**, intends to apply the sum of Philippine Peso as follows:

   P 350,200,000.00 – *for PACKAGE A* – (Supply and Delivery of Transmission Steel Towers and Line Materials Including Installation for Typhoon Damaged Portions of the Naga-Labo Transmission Line (Sp06.NLTL.Lt-0090);

   P 269,300,000.00 – *for PACKAGE B* – (Supply and Delivery of Transmission Steel Towers and Line Materials Including Installation for Typhoon Damaged Portions of Tiwi Plant C – Naga Transmission Line (Sp06.TPCNTL.Lt-0091); and

   P 209,800,000.00 – for *PACKAGE C* – (Supply and Delivery of Transmission Steel Towers and Line Materials Including Installation for Typhoon Damaged Portions of Tiwi Plant A – Daraga, Naga-Daraga & Bacman – Daraga Transmission Line (Sp06.TPADNDBDTL.Lt-0092)

   being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the above packages. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. **TRANSCO** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the **Supply and Delivery of Transmission Steel Towers and Line Materials Including Installation for Typhoon Damaged Portions for Package A, Package B and Package C.** Delivery and Installation of the GOODS is required within **240 calendar days from contract effectivity.** The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is open to Filipino citizens/sole prorietorship, organizations, and to Foreign bidders whose country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine the bid's responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) determined after the conduct of the post-qualification evaluation.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from **TRANSCO** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address stated in Item 10 starting **January 29, 2007** from **8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.**
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address stated below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of ***Philippine Peso 20,000.00 per package***. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. **TRANSCO** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on ***February 19, 2007, 9:00 A.M.*** at *C.U. Del Rosario Function Hall B & C, Power Training Center Building, National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines.*
7. Bids and eligibility requirements for Package A, Package B and Package C must be delivered at the venue of the bid opening stated in Item 8 on or before **9:00 A.M.** of **March 8, 2007.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and in the amount specified in Section III of the Bidding Documents, BDS. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening for Package A, Package B and Package C shall be held on **March 8,2007, 9:00 A.M.** *at C.U. Del Rosario Conference Hall B & C, Power Training Center Building, National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.
9. **TRANSCO** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder/s.
10. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the Special BAC Secretariat at the following address:

ROMEO V. ALEJANDRO
Head – Special BAC Secretariat
Third Floor, TransCo Main Building, Power Center
National Tansmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road
1104 Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, PHILIPPINES
Tel. No.: (63 2) 981-2491; Telefax No.: (632) 926-18-54
Email address: rvalejandro@transco.ph
http://www.transco.ph

(Atty.) NOEL Z. DE LEON
Chairman
Special Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – January 28, 2007)

PAMPANGA I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
STO. DOMINGO, MEXICO, PAMPANGA
Tel. Nos. (045)966-0604 / 875-0552
Fax. No. (045) 966-0270
E-mail: pelco1_mexico72@yahoo.com

January 28, 2007

INVITATION TO BID

Interested parties are hereby invited for the supply and delivery of the following materials:

GROUP 1

DESCRIPTION	
Ampact connector #336.4	10PCS
Anchor rod twin eye	25PCS
Angular Brace	10PCS
Bolt Carriage, 3/8" x 4-1/2	100PCS
Bolt dble arming, 5/8" x 20	50PCS
Bolt dble upset 5/8" x 10"	30PCS
Bolt dble upset, 5/8" x 12"	50PCS
Bolt Machine, 5/8" x 6"	50PCS
Bolt Machine, 5/8" x 8"	50PCS
Bolt Machine, 5/8" x 10"	150PCS
Bolt Machine, 5/8" x 12"	100PCS
Bolt Machine, 5/8" x 14"	100PCS
Bolt Single Upset 5/8" x 10	50PCS
Bolt Single Upset 5/8" x 12	50PCS
Brace flat steel, 28"	100PCS
Brace sidearm, diagonal	50PCS
Clamp d-end strain #4 4/0	50PCS
Clamp guy, 3-bolt	50PCS
Clamp loop deadend	150PCS
Clevis secondary	50PCS
Conductor ACSR #2/0	3500M
Conductor Duplex #2	10000M
Conductor Duplex #6	25000M
Crossarm, steel #8	50PCS
Cut-out com w/ arrester	30PCS
Electrical tape	1000PCS
Fuse links, 3A	50PCS
Fuse links, 5A	50PCS

continuation ...GROUP 1

Fuse links, 20A	50PCS
Fuse links, 25A	50PCS
Fuse links, 30A	50PCS
Pin Pole top, 20"	50PCS
Pole Clamp	30PCS
Pole concrete, 25 footer	50PCS
Pole concrete, 30 footer	50PCS
Pole concrete, 35 footer	50PCS
Pole concrete, 60 footer	10PCS
Poly AAC duraflex #6	20000M
Power fuse SMD 1A 100E	3PCS
Spool insulator, 1-3/4' dia	100PCS
Spool insulator, 3" dia	30PCS
Xformer 15KVA, Brand New	4UNITS
Xformer 25KVA, Brand New	9UNITS
Xformer 37.5KVA, Brand N	6UNITS
Xformer 50KVA Brand New	1UNIT
Bracket, Transformer	3PCS
Twistlock meter seal	3000PCS
GE KV2C KWHMETERS	8 UNITS
GE KV2C SOFT SWITCH	15 UNITS
KWH Meter, Electro Mech	2 UNITS
CT OUTDOOR, 100:5, 600V	6 UNITS

GROUP 2

IMPORTATION OF DX XFORMER	
25 KVA, BRAND NEW	37 UNITS
37.5 KVA, BRAND NEW	15 UNITS
50 KVA, BRAND NEW	10 UNITS

Bidders must submit the following requirements for pre-qualification: Company Profile, Latest ITR, Audited Financial Statement, business or Mayor's permit, DTI registration, SEC registration.(Original copies to be shown for authentication purpose).

Submission of Prequalification Documents - **February 2 – 9, 2007**
Bid Documents are available on - **February 10 – 19, 2007**
Date and Time of Pre-bid Conference - **February 20, 2007 at 2PM**
OPENING OF BIDS - **February 28, 2007 at 2PM**

Bid documents can be availed from 8:00AM to 5.00PM thru the BAC Chairman or its members by paying the corresponding fee at PELCO I main office, Sto. Domingo, Mexico, Pampanga. Accredited suppliers previously pre-qualified still need to update their files with PELCO I.

Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security (Cash, Manager's Check, Cashier's Check or Surety Bond) of at least 2.5% of the total bid amount.

PELCO I reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids including application to pre-qualify without stating any reason. For any inquiry, please contact the members of the BAC at telephone numbers stated above.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. ROY M. DE LEON**
BAC Chairman

Noted by:

(Sgd.) **ENGR. LOLIANO E. ALLAS**
General Manager

(PDI - Jan. 28 & 31, 2007)

LIGHT
RAIL
TRANSIT
AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA),** through its **Special Bids and Awards Committee (SBAC)**, invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and, if found eligible, to bid the following contract:

CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR LINE 1 NORTH EXTENSION PROJECT

LRTA intends to apply the sum of **Four Hundred Seventy Five Million Pesos (Php475,000,000.00)** being the Approved Budget Cost (ABC) for the Contract.

LRTA now calls for the submission of ***Letters of Intent (LOIs)*** from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and short listing of prospective Consultants for the **Consultancy Services for Line 1 North Extension Project.** The **SBAC Secretariat** shall receive LOIs and sealed and duly accomplished Eligibility Documents on **07 February 2007,** Wednesday, not later than 9:00 AM and shall thereafter be publicly opened immediately at Line 2 Cafeteria, Line 2 Depot, Santolan, Pasig City. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. Eligibility documents may be obtained from the SBAC Secretariat at Admin Bldg., LRTA Compd., Pasay City on **January 29 to February 06, 2007** during regular office hours upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Five Thousand Pesos (Pbp5,000.00).**

The **SBAC** shall draw the short list bidders from those who have submitted LOIs and have been determined as eligible both in accordance with the provisions of **R.A. 9184** and its **Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A).** Bid documents may be obtained from the SBAC Secretariat on **February 12 - 15, 2007** during regular office hours upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php50,000.00).**

For purposes of clarifying issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **16 February 2007,** Friday, 10:00 AM at line 2 Cafeteria, LRTA Line 2 Deport, Santolan, Pasig City.

The **SBAC Secretariat** shall receive sealed bids not later than **23 March 2007,** Friday, 9:00 AM and shall thereafter be publicly opened immediately at Line 2 Cafeteria, Line 2 Depot, Santolan, Pasig City.

Eligibility Documents and Bids shall not be received without the presence of the bidder or its duly authorized representative.

Quality-Cost Evaluation Procedure shall be used in the appreciation of the technical and financial proposals of the bidders. All bidders shall be required to submit their technical and financial proposals simultaneously in separate sealed envelopes. The technical proposals together with the financial proposals shall be considered in the evaluation of the bids. Most importantly, the financial and technical proposals shall be given corresponding weights of **FORTY (40%) PERCENT** and **SIXTY (60%) PERCENT,** respectively, comprising a total of **ONE HUNDRED (100%) PERCENT.**

LRTA reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of its bids, and will entertain only such bid/s established to be the most advantageous to the **LRTA.**

(Sgd.) Chairman
Special Bids and Awards Committee (SBAC)

Address:
Administration Bldg., LRTA Compound, Aurora Blvd.,
Pasay City, M.M., Republic of the Philippines
FAX 831-6449 • Telex 64614 LRT PN
Phones: 832-3141 to 60 / 832-0423 / 832-0432
831-4784 /831-9707 / 833-2466

(PDI – Jan. 28, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council
HOUSING AND LAND USE REGULATORY BOARD

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION NO. 799

Series of 2006

ACCREDITING PAG-IBIG HOUSING BONDS AS AN ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT OF SUBDIVISION OWNER/DEVELOPER IN COMPLIANCE TO THE TWENTY PERCENT (20%) SOCIAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENT UNDER SECTION 18 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7279.

WHEREAS, the Board encourages the production of socialized as well as open market housing. Hence, it continually strives to look for means such that the private sector could comply with the twenty percent (20%) balanced housing development requirement under Section 18 of Republic Act No. 7279, otherwise known as the Urban Development and Housing Act (UDHA) of 1992;

WHEREAS, in accordance with the opinion of the Department of Justice the proposed inclusion of the purchase of housing bonds issued by local government units or any housing agency is one of the modes of compliance to the socialized housing requirement as the same is germane to the objects and purpose of the law and is within the scope of the term joint venture as defined in the same law;

WHEREFORE, be it resolved as it is hereby that the requrest for the accreditation of the Pag-IBIG Housing Bonds, Series 2006 of the Home Development Mutual Fund as alternative investment of subdivision owner/developer in compliance to the twenty percent (20%) socialized housing development requirement under Section 18 of Republic Act 7279 be approved as it is hereby approved.

APPROVED, 27 November 2006, Quezon City.

THE HONORABLE NOLI L. DE CASTRO
Vice-President of the Philippines &
HUDCC Chairman

ERNESTO L. PINEDA
Undersecretary, DOJ

ROMULO Q. FABUL
Chief Executive Officer
and Commissioner

WENCELITO T. ANDANAR
Undersecretary, DILG

TERESITA A. DESIERTO
Commissioner

AUGUSTO B. SANTOS
Deputy Director-General, NEDA

JESUS YAP PANG
Commissioner

JOEL L. JACOB
DPWH

ARTURO M. DOBLADO
Commissioner

Attested by:

CHARITO B. LANSANG
Board Secretary

(PDI – January 28, 2007)

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Board of Trustees of the Bataan Polytechnic State College, City of Balanga, Bataan formally and publicly announces that the Search for Presidency of the BATAAN POLYTECHNIC STATE COLLEGE is NOW OPEN.

The minimum qualifications are:

- Must be a Filipino citizen;
- Preferably a holder of a Doctoral Degree;
- Preferably not more than sixty (60) years old at the time of application;
- With recognized leadership in his/her profession in the academe or industry;
- With at least five (5) years of managerial/administrative experience;
- Must be morally upright;
- Has not been convicted by final judgment of any crime involving moral turpitude.

The applicants should submit a formal application letter together with the following:

- Detailed Curriculum Vitae with recent picture (2 x 2) and certified supporting documents
- Proposed Statement of Vision, Mission, Thrusts and Programs for BPSC
- NSO authenticated birth certificate
- National Bureau of Investigation clearance
- Clearance from Regional Trial Court and Provincial Prosecutor's Office
- Ombudsman clearance for those who are already or have been in the government service
- Clearance from Civil Service Commission and present employer
- Clearance from last two (2) previous employers, as maybe applicable
- Result of neuro-psychiatric examination conducted by any government physician or any accredited health institution (in a sealed envelope)
- Medical Certificate/Clearance from a government physician
- Letter authorizing the Search Committee to validate the submitted documents

Interested applicants and/or those nominated for the position are requested to submit eight (8) sets of their formal application and certified documents on or before February 28, 2007 to:

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
Commission on Higher Education
c/o **DR. AMELIA A. BIGLETE**
Chairman of the Search Committee for BPSC Presidency
5/F DAP Bldg., San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. (02) 633-2713 / Fax No. (02) 635-5829

Note: There is a pending Senate Bill 2457 regarding the conversion of BPSC into a state university.

(PDI--Jan. 28, 2007)

CAGELCO II

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The CAGAYAN II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (CAGELCO II) is inviting all interested bidders to pre-qualify and to bid for the following projects:

1 Supply and Installation of 5 MVA Outdoor Power Transformer and Automatic Voltage Regulator (AVR) for our Casambalangan Sub-Station at Sta. Ana, Cagayan. The Power Transformer must be rated 5 MVA, 3-Phase, HV-67kV / LV-13.8kV, 60Hz, ONAN Cooling, Off-Circuit Tap Changer, Dyn 1 Connection and Drying process shall use Vapour Phase System.
2. Supply and Installation of Automatic Voltage Regulator (AVR), must be rated 167kVA, 1O, Nominal Voltage at 7620 Volts, ONAN cooling system, 3 units
3 Supply of Pre-Stressed Concrete Pole, Assorted Electric Distribution Line Hardwares and Wires for rehab/upgrading.

To be qualified, bidder must have fully complied with the following:

1 Accreditation Requirements (for submission to the Accreditation Committee Chairman, Clarence E. Jacinto).
  a Company Profile
  b Business Registration
  c Business Permit
  d BIR/VAT Certificate
  e Latest Income Tax Return (ITR)
  f List of Clients for a period of three (3) years
  g. Financial Statement
  h. Compliance with the must technical specifications
2. Must be able to pay P5,000.00 (for this particular bidding only and not refundable) for bid documents during the pre-bid conference

CAGELCO II reserves the right to reject any/or all bid without any reason, waive any formality therein, accepts proposal most advantageous to the cooperative and assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Pre-bid conference and bidding schedules shall be informed to all qualified bidders through fax and mails.

Deadline for submission of requirements – **February 10, 2007.**

(Sgd.) BLANDINA Y. MADAMBA
ISD Manager/PBAC Chairman

Noted by
(Sgd.) GABRIEL A. TORDESILLAS
General Manager

(PDI – January 27 & 28, 2007)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
REGIONAL OFFICE NO. VIII
PAWING, PALO, LEYTE
Tel. Nos. (053-323-3075, 323-3084)
FAX No. 053-323-3061

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR REGISTRATION/ELIGIBILITY & TO BID PROCUREMENT FOR SECURITY SERVICES CY 2007 FOR NFA REGION VIII (REBIDDING)

The National Food Authority (NFA) invites all interested Private Security Agencies (PSAs) to register, apply eligibility and to bid for provisions of Security Services for Calendar Year 2007 at NFA Regional Office No. VIII. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening. The service contract to be bid shall be divided into lots with one province treated as one (1) Lot, to wit:

LOT	PROVINCE	NO. OF SG'S	PER ANNUM	BIDDING FEE
1	NORTHERN LEYTE	24	P3,433,337.28	P7,000.00
2	SOUTHERN LEYTE	10	1,430,557.20	2,500.00
3	BILIRAN	4	572,222.88	1,500.00
4	WESTERN SAMAR	9	1,287,503.48	2,500.00
5	NORTHERN SAMAR	19	2,718,058.68	5,500.00
6	EASTERN SAMAR	12	1,716,668.64	3,500.00
	TOTAL:	78	P11,158,346.16	

The application forms, eligibility requirements can be secured and submitted at the NFA Regional Bids and Award Committee (RBAC) Secretariat upon payment of non-refundable application fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00).

Bidding Documents shall be issued to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable bidding fee per lot as stated above. The schedule of bidding activities are as follows:

DATE	ACTIVITY
Jan. 29 - Feb. 5, 2007 (8:00 am - 5:00 pm)	Issuance of Registration and Eligibility Requirements (NFA-ROVIII)
Feb. 9, 2007 (5:00 pm)	Deadline for submission of Required Registration and Eligibility documents.
Feb. 7-Feb. 14, 2007 (8:00 am - 5:00 pm)	Issuance of Certificate of Registration & Notice of Eligibility/Bid Documents
Feb. 15, 2007 (2:00 pm)	Pre-bidding Conference (NFA-RO8 Conference Room)
Feb. 28, 2007 (9:30 am)	Submission and Opening of Bids (NFA-RO8 Conference Room)

All particulars relative to eligibility requirements, bid bond, performance bond, pre-bid conference, bid evaluation and award of contract shall be governed by the provision of RA 9184 and other applicable rules and regulations.

A Special Power of Attorney (SPA) issued by the Prospective bidder owner (for sole ownership) and/or resolution from the Board authorizing their representative (for Corporations) to purchase the bid documents, to sign for and behalf of the owner/corporation whatever documents relative to the bidding and to attend the pre-bidding conference and during the opening of the bids shall be required.

NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any formality/informality of the bids, received and to accept only such Bids which are advantageous to the National Food Authority.

(Sgd.) ANTONIO J. ADORABLE
Asst. Regional Manager II
Chairperson-RBAC, NFA-ROVIII

(PDI – Jan 28, 2007)

CHINESE NEW YEAR SALE!!!

UNIONBANK

SPECIAL PUBLIC AUCTION

ONLY 10% DOWNPAYMENT!

February 17, 2007
Saturday 9:00 AM
De las Alas Room, 2nd Floor
Philippine Columbian Sports Club, Plaza Dilao, Paco, Manila

13% P.A. FIXED FOR THE FIRST 3 YRS.!! 15% P.A. FIXED FOR THE NEXT 12 YRS!!

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e-mail us at: esbabas@unionbankph.com or visit us at: www.unionbankph.com

RESIDENTIAL / AGRICULTURAL

	PARANAQUE CITY	MIN BID
1	2 Sty w/ attic & swimming pool Lot 2 Blk 6, Dona Rita Diaz St., Fortunata Vill, Brgy La Huerta /LA 325 FA 459 (nr Sucat Rd, Delos Santos Market)	3,800,000
2	Res'l Condo Unit w/ 2 parking slots Unit 108, 1st /F Cataluna Bldg., Bella Villa I, No 5 Hamburg St., Merville Park Subd / FA 195	6,900,000
3	Resl Condo Unit w/ prkng slot Unit 1801, 18th flr Chateau De Baie Condo, Roxas Blvd cor. Airport Rd FA 144 (b/ween Baclaran Church & Uniwide C'tal)	5,300,000
	QUEZON CITY	**MIN BID**
4	Res'l Condo Unit / Unit 1509, Lansdale Tower Condo, Mother Ignacia Ave, Brgy. Paligsahan / F A 67	2,900,000
5	H & Lot / # 269 M Aquino St Banlat Rd, Tandang Sora/LA 120/FA 191	1,700,000
6	3-Sty Thse/Unit R Sentosa Hts # 18 Sct Bayoran St, South Triangle LA 182 / FA 391 (between Sct Tuazon & T Morato, near Hotel Rembrant) w/ Lis Pendens	7,200,000
7	Hse & Lot / # 19 Balabac St Araneta Vill, Brgy. Dona Imelda LA-777, FA-348 * w/ Lis Pendens (near Quezon Inst & SM Centerpoint)	8,500,000
	SAN JUAN – Addition Hills	**MIN BID**
	Goldilane Exec. Hms., No. 208 Ortega cor. L. Mencias Sts, (nr Cardinal Santos Hosp)	
8	Res'l T'Hse / Unit G / LA-75 / FA-344	8,600,000
9	Res'l T'Hse / Unit F / LA-75 / FA-250	7,300,000
	MANILA – Taft Ave., Malate	**MIN BID**
	Burgundy T-Pacific Place Condo (across Dela Salle)	
10	Resl Condo w/ prkng slot # 16, Unit 2310, 23-F / FA 37	2,800,000
11	Resl Condo w/ prkng slot # 13, Unit 2309, 23-F / FA 32	2,400,000
12	Resl Condo w/ prkng slot # 12, Unit 2210, 22-F / FA 37	2,800,000
	MAKATI CITY - Kingswood Twr	**MIN BID**
	P. Tamo cor V. Cruz Extn, near Shopwise (units are facing V Cruz Extn & Mkti CBD)	
13	Condo /Unit 4-C Twr B, 3BR, 2T/B & 1-Prkng slot FA 77/Prkng 12 5	3,000,000
14	Condo /Unit 14-E, Twr B, 3BR 2T/B, maid's rm FA 77 / Prkng 12 5	3,425,000
	# 1656 Penafrancia cor D. Oliman Sts, Valenzuela	
15	Penthouse Condo w/ parking Kikusui Star Condo, Unit 5A / FA243	6,700,000
	LAS PINAS - Brgy. Talon-IV	**MIN BID**
16	Lot/L2 B1 Chrysanthemum St Hansuyin Vill / LA 361 (via Marcos Alvarez Ave & nr SM Las Pinas)	1,500,000
	MUNTINLUPA – Alabang	**MIN BID**
	San Jose Vill. (infront of Alabang Town Cntr)	
17	Lot / Lot 264 (Pcs 4946), St Joseph St / LA 526 * w/ Court Decision in favor of Unionbank	3,810,000
	ANTIPOLO, RIZAL (Lots)	**MIN BID**
18	Lot/L27 B3, Brentwood St, Pine City Exec Vill, Brgy Balimbing LA 120 (nr Antipolo town proper)	500,000
19	Res'l Lot / Lot 3 Block 6-A Salford St (nr.cor Bristol St) Town & Country Est. Sta Cruz / LA-663	4,000,000
20	Lot 17 Blk 1 Beverly St. Sta Barbara 1, Luxury Estate Mission Hills, Brgy Colaique / LA 1,021 (near Pines City)	4,150,000
	ANTIPOLO CITY –Cottonwood Hts.	**MIN BID**
21	L 23 B 10, Cottonwood Dr., LA 266	2,050,000
22	L 21 B 2, Birchwood St. LA 355	2,750,000
	ANGONO, RIZAL	**MIN BID**
23	Lot 8 Blk 2, Mills St, Sta Monica Classic, Phase 3, Brgy Mababang Parang, Mission Hills (via Antipolo/nr Pines City) LA 540	2,000,000
	LAGUNA	**MIN BID**
24	Res'l / Agri'l Lot / Lot 20, Blk 12 Apitong St, Ceris II Subd Brgy Canlubang, Calamba City / LA 480	1,810,000
	Colina Subd – Sn Pedro, LAGUNA	**MIN BID**
	Brgy Sn.Antonio (nr Toll gate & Filipinas Golf)	
25	Lot / Lot 13 Blk 3 / LA 50	290,000
26	Lot / Lot 2 Blk 4 / LA 50	290,000
27	Cor. Lot / Lot 8 Blk 4 / LA 84	504,000
28	Cor Lot / Lot10 Blk 3 / LA 92	552,000
	LA MAREA - Sn Pedro, LAGUNA	**MIN BID**
	Near Sn Pedro Toll Gate – Sn Antonio	
29	Lot / L 2 B 5, Ph 3 / LA 180	1,242,000
30	Lot / L 1 B 4, Ph 3 / LA 207	1,429,000
31	Lot / L 6 B 4, Ph 3 / LA 181	1,249,000
32	Lot / L 7 B 4, Ph 3 / LA 185	1,277,000
33	Lot / L 5 B 4, Ph 3 / LA 194	1,339,000
	CAVITE – Dasmarinas	**MIN BID**
34	Hse & Lot / No 36 Kalamansi Road Greenfield Heights Subd Brgy. Sampaloc 2 LA 329/FA85 (with Lis Pendens)	620,000
	CAVITE - Molino III, Bacoor	**MIN BID**
	Madelaine Place, Springville Subd.	
35	Lot / Lot 8 Blk 1 / LA 117	582,000
36	Lot / Lot 19 Blk 7 / LA 132	656,000
	Central Phase 2, Springville Subd. (Lots)	
37	L 5 B 1, near ClubHse / LA 232	1,636,000
	Washington Manor, Springville Subd.	
38	Lot / Lot 2 Blk 2 / LA 154	1,020,000
	CAVITE- Dasmarinas	**MIN BID**
39	2-Sty w/ Rfdeck H&L/L5&6 B5 Agustina Village / LA 388 FA 939 (nr Velmaris Schl & St Angela Montessori)	5,700,000
	Orchard Res'l. Estates and Golf & Country Club - Salitran, Dasmarinas, Cavite	
	FAIRWAY LOT	
40	Lot 46 Blk 50 / LA 630	2,394,000
	NON - FAIRWAY LOT	
41	Lot 35 Blk 37 / LA 687	2,061,000

RESIDENTIAL / AGRICULTURAL

	BATANGAS	MIN BID
	Mt. Ridge, LAUREL	
44	Lot 1-M Psd-04-081835, LA 1k	8,100,000
	Villa Mercedes, Niyugan	
45	Resl Condo, Unit No B-1, FA 186	6,500,000
46	Resl Condo, Unit No B-2, FA 219	7,600,000
	BATANGAS	**MIN BID**
47	Res'l T'Hse / L24 B22, Bristle Cone St, Phase 1, Canyon Woods Estate, Brgy San Gregorio Laurel / LA 200 FA 127	4,000,000
48	Cor Lot/L12 B2, Coral Shores Layug Subd, Bagong Silang Calatagan (beach front) / LA 1,856	5,800,000
	TAGAYTAY CITY	**MIN BID**
	Tagaytay Highlands – Pine Crest Condo.	
49	Resl Condo Unit w/ prkng slot Unit 2310, 3rd flr., / FA 97 (w/o shares)	7,015,000
50	Resl Condo Unit w/ prkng slot Unit 2309, 3rd flr, / FA 97 (w/o shares)	8,050,000
51	Lot / Lot 2B1, Tagaytay-Calamba Rd, San Francisco / LA 1,171 (over looking Taal Lake)	11,000,000
52	Lot 8, Tagaytay Calamba Rd Tolentino West / LA 2,156 *w/ Lis Pendens / over looking Taal Lake	20,000,000
	NUEVA ECIJA - Cab. City	**MIN BID**
	# 529 Pag Asa, Daan Sarili (near LTO)	
53	Lot / Lot 3 A 4 / LA 1,847	401,000
54	Lot / Lot 3 A 3 / LA 1,848	401,000
	TARLAC CITY	**MIN BID**
55	2 Sty H&L / L 7 B 18, Family Park Homes, Brgy Cut-Cut II San Miguel / LA 62 / FA 40	230,000
	BULACAN – Plaridel	**MIN BID**
	Brgy. Lalangan - Plaridel Heights	
56	Cor. Lot / L 2 B 47, LA 355	1,243,000
57	Cor Lot / L 2 B 38, LA 411	1,439,000
	BULACAN – Meycauayan	**MIN BID**
58	2 Sty Resl H & L, L14 B8 La Brezza Subd, Brgy Pantok/ LA 75 / FA 48	820,000
	COMM'L. / AGRI'L. (SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL)	
	MAKATI CITY	**MIN BID**
59	Offc Condo w/ 5 prkng/Unit A1 14th/F, Trident Condo, H V Dela Costa St, Salcedo Village / FA 521	32,000,000
	Brgy. Pinagkaisahan, nr EDSA, Kalayaan & The Fort	
60	Comm'l / Res'l Lot / L 16 B 14, # 3904 Quingua St/LA204 (beside Forbes Park)	5,500,000
61	Comm'l / Res'l Lot / L 17 B 14, # 3904 Quingua St/LA204 (beside Forbes Park)	5,500,000
62	Comm'l / Res'l Lot / L 18 B 14, # 3904 Quingua St/LA204 (beside Forbes Park)	5,500,000
	# 1656 Penafrancia cor D. Oliman Sts, Valenzuela	
63	Condo w/ prkng / Kikusui Star Condo, Unit G-A / FA 93 (on lease)	3,100,000
64	Condo w/ prkng / Kikusui Star Condo Unit G-B / FA 85 (on lease)	2,800,000
	Millenium Plaza- Mkti. Ave cor Eduque St	
65	Condo Unit / 5/F FA 261	17 765 000
	LIAN, BATANGAS	**MIN BID**
66	Agri Lot / Lian-Calatagan Prov Rd. Brgy Putting Kahoy / LA 654,998	140,654,000
	PASAY CITY	**MIN BID**
67	Comm'l Condo / Office Space 18th Floor EGI Rufino Plaza, Taft Ave., Corner Sen Gil Puyat Ave / TFA 1,653	57 032 000
	PASIG CITY	**MIN BID**
68	Comm'l/Res'l Lot/Pcn-13-000159 C Raymundo Ave cor Windsor St, Eastside Manor, Brgy Maybunga/LA 1 893	26,200,000
	PARANAQUE CITY	**MIN BID**
	Dama De Noche St, United Indl, (UPS-1V) Sn Dionisio	
69	Indl Lot w/ Warehouse / Lot 6-A LA 1,803 / FA 1,720 (near Leslie Food)	14,300,000
	Across Chinese Temple along Coastal Rd, Tambo	
70	Lot, L1 B5, Asiaworld City / LA 1,559 (near Marina Baytown)	33,700,000
71	Lot, L2 B5, Asiaworld City / LA 1,400 (near Marina Baytown)	32,200,000
	QUEZON CITY – Libis	**MIN BID**
	IBM Plaza, Eastwood City-beside Citibank	
72	Office Condo w/ parking Unit 8-A / FA 166	8,000,000
	QUEZON CITY	**MIN BID**
73	Building / Lots 8 & 9 Blk S 27 Timog Ave LA 1,380 FA 1 500 (nr Unionbank Timog Br & GMA-7) (on monthly Lease)	70,000,000
74	W'house / 185 Roosevelt Ave SFDM / LA 5,641 / FA 3,454	140,000,000
	MUNTINLUPA CITY	**MIN BID**
75	Comml Condo Unit/Unit 1905, 19th flr, Richville Corporate Tower Alabang-Zapote Rd. Madrigal Bus Park, Alabang / FA-59	3,700,000
	VALENZUELA CITY	**MIN BID**
76	Indl Lot w/ 2 Whses (14&16) Barracks, Canteen, Guardhse Lot 1075 D 1 C, Plastic City # 6 T. Santiago St, Canumay-West / LA 9,923 / FA 7,098	39,703,000
77	Industrial Lot / Lot 382 C Plastic City Housing, Canumay LA 25,798 (via T Santiago & Pinagbayanan Sts)	45,000,000
	NUEVA ECIJA - Cabanatuan City	**MIN BID**
	# 529 Pag-Asa, Daan Sarili (near L.T.O.)	
78	Agri Lot / Lot 3B / LA 37,041	2,366,000
79	Warehouse & Office Lot 2H / LA 2,260 / FA 580	5,098,000
	CAVITE - Tanza, Bo. Tres Cruces	**MIN BID**
	nr Transville Subd, via Trece Martires	
80	Agri Lot / Lot-2931 (Rs-1273) LA 40,127 * w/ Adverse Claim & No Right Of Way	5,000,000
	TARLAC CITY – Poblacion	**MIN BID**
	Panganiban St. - across PLDT	
81	Lot / Lot 4 A 1 / LA 373	5,390,000
82	Lot / Lot 4 A 2 / LA 373	5,390,000

JUST BRING P20,000 SHOW MONEY(CASH OR MC) TO QUALIFY TO BID FOR EACH PROPERTY CWT IS FOR THE BUYER'S ACCOUNT ALL PROPERTIES FOR SALE ARE ON "AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS Unionbank may, at anytime, withdraw any of the properties listed above prior to auction

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PERSONAL

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ACCOUNTANT

ACCOUNTANT
1.REGISTRATION OF BOOKS 2.COMPANY FORMATION 3.SETUP BOOKS OF ACCOUNTS 4.BOOKKEEPING 5.FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 6.TAX PREPARATION 453-0294 09175281769

ARCHITECTS

ARCH'T 2D/3D (0927)9194639

INSURANCE

BEST LIFE INSURANCE PLANS HIGH DIVIDENDS 09197627316

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

DIRECT MAID YAYA M-WIFE 4384809

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Dict Maid Yaya int icook Hboy 7288283

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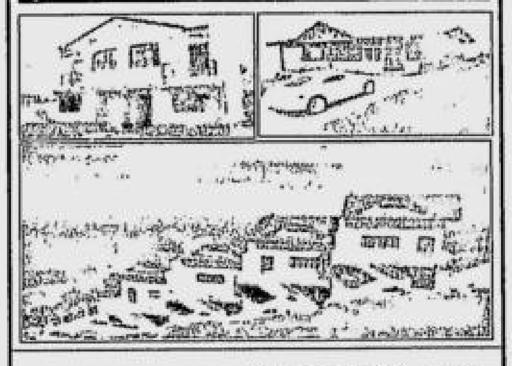

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BFRV 81m² 2.3Mneg 9317306

Bnew 4br jacuzi 2.8M 9487112

Bnew H&L LA110-FA126m² 4BRMS,3TB,Pwdr Rm,Dirty Kit, Laundry, 1-2 Carport only 15mins frm Ortigas P3.5M Neg Tel. 438-0379 0917-8857920 •0917-5371903

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Hse & Lot 100m² Concrete 3Stry & 2Stry 3TB Patio TFA177m² Strong H²O No FLood T-7430270 Manila

Hse 200sqm & Lot 143sqm 4sale Concorde Vll, Pque P4.5M 8536318 09179511677

• KAMUNING #96K-1 St Bnew• 9219967 / 09178865431

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SJuan new4.2Mlems 7159249

LOT

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2% W/O TAKING CAR 7880183-84

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7723810/12

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

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Auction-FEBRUARY 8, 2007
All unredeemed articles
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VZamora-Auctioneer

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estae of late ALEJANDRO B. BERNATE, JR. was extrajudicially settled among the heirs as per Doc 082 Page 17 Book III Series 2007 before Notary Public Donata C. Manguiat of Quezon City.
(PDI-Jan. 14, 21 & 28, 2007)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE HUDSON CHUA HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED BY HIS HEIR AS PER DOC. # 210; PAGE # 42; BOOK # V; SERIES OF 2006 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. RICARDO NERI OF MANILA CITY
+PDI-JAN. 14, 21 & 28, 2007

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ERLINDA SAMONTE GARCIA has been extrajudcially settled by her heirs as per Doc#434 Page#88 Book-#LXXXI Series of 2005 before Notary Public Primitivo C. Cruz of Taguig City, Metro Manila.
(PDI-Jan. 28, Feb. 4 &11, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late JESUS P. AVENDANO was self-adjudicated by her wife, ERLINDA, Parcel of (Lot 25A of the subd. PSD 00044625 being a portion of Lot 25/ at Bo. Barangka Ilaas Mandaluyong City as per Doc#390 Page#79 Book#1 Series of 2007 by Atty. Jimmy D. Lacebal Mandaluyong City.
(PDI-Jan. 28, Feb. 4 & 11, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the ANSCOR Stock Certificate Nos. RT A-00221801 issued on 09/18/1988 1,853shares.SD A-00315481 issued on 09/24/1992 799 shares, SD A-00390784 issued on 08/27/1997 3,158 shares issued to Mr. EDUARDO N. GUANZON was lost. If no contest is received, new certificates will be issued.
(PDI-Jan. 28, Feb. 4 & 11, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late JUSTO D. TAN was extrajudicially settled among the heirs with waiver of rights as per Doc. 300; Page. 61; Book VI Series of 2006 before Notary Public Atty. Von P. Sto. Domingo of Marikina City
(PDI - Jan. 14, 21 & 28,2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CESAR G. LEUTERIO was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc#133 Page#28 Book#26 Series of 2006 of Notary Public Ramon U. De Guzman of Quezon City, Metro Manila.
(PDI-Jan. 21, 28 & Feb. 4, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late FLORENCIA PEJI-PANGANIBAN was extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc. No. 16, Page No. 4, Book No III, Series of 2006 before Notary Public Tito S Fajardo of Pasig City.
(January 14, 21 & 28, 2007)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE VALENTIN ESTEBAN HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED BY HIS HEIRS AS PER DOC# 489; PAGE#98; BOOK# VII; SERIES OF 2006 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. MOISES de CASTRO OF BACOOR CAVITE
PDI-JAN. 21, 28 & FEB. 4, 2007

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late TOMAS O. DEL CASTILLO, JR. was extrajudicially settled by his heirs per Doc. No. 337; Page No. 93; Book No. III; Series of 2006 before Notary Public Fortunato C. Pagdanganan.
(Jan. 14, 21 & 28, 2007)

Take notice that the estate of the late NORMA O. GUTIERREZ has been settled by the heirs pursuant to an extrajudicial settlement of estate with Quitclaim being Doc#167 Page#29 Book#XXXIX Series of 2001 of Atty. Rolando D. Mendoza.
(PDI-Jan. 14, 21 & 28, 2007)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Stock Certificate No. 152139 issued by ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp for 1,000 shares of Mr. Juan Tomas Araneta has been reported lost. If no contest received new certificate will be issued.
PDI-Jan. 28, Feb. 4 & 11, 2007

Notice to the Public
Notice is hereby given to the public that Ms. Yang, Ga Young residing at Milo's Compound Camp 7 Baguio City had lost her Alien Certificate of Registration (ACR) with No E295146
(PDI-Jan. 21 & 28, 2007)

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Desktop Computers (branded)	8
UPS	9
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USB Flash drive	24
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Norton Antivirus (licensed)	30
Windows operating system for server (licensed)	30
Digital Camera	3
Video Camera	1
Digital Projector	3
Laser Jet B&W Printer	3
Laser Jet Colored Printer	2
Scanner	2
Heavy Duty Copier	1
Office Photocopier (Medium range)	1
PABX	1
Telephone Units (Landline)	10
Fax Machine	1

Interested vendors/suppliers may obtain a copy of the instructions to offerors, specifications and pre-qualification requirements at any time during office hours from the address below. Offers and pre-qualification requirements must be delivered to the PBSP office on or before **February 5, 2007, 5:00 PM** to:

Roldan B. Ramos, Procurement and Grants Specialist
Magallanes cor. Real Streets, Intramuros, Manila,
Tel. No. 527 7741 local 107, e-mail: rbramos@pbsp.org.ph

PBSP reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the bidders.

(PDI – Jan. 28, 2007)

PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City
is now accepting applications for
Academic Year 2007

A. **FELLOWSHIPS**

I. **3-Year Fellowship Training Program in Adult Cardiology Department**
- Certificate of Residency Training in Internal Medicine accredited by PCP
- PCP Diplomate

II. **1-Year Subspecialty Fellowship Training Program in Electrocardiology, Cardiac Rehabilitation, Non-Invasive Cardiology, Invasive Cardiology, Peripheral Vascular and Critical Care Cardiology**
- Have completed Residency Training in Internal Medicine and Fellowship in Cardiology in PCP and PCC accredited institutions
- PCP Diplomate
- Submit a research proposal
- Certificate of Fellowship

III. **Pulmonary Medicine**
- PCP Diplomate

❖ Deadline for submission of application is on February 28, 2007
❖ Academic Year 2007 starts on April 1, 2007

IV. **CV Anesthesiology Division**
- 3 years Residency in General Anesthesia accredited by PBA (Board eligible)

V. **Pediatric Cardiovascular Medicine Department**
- 3 years Residency in General Pediatric accredited by PPS
- at least passed written examination for Diplomate in Pediatrics

VI. **Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery Division**
- 4 years Residency in General Surgery accredited by PCS (Board eligible)

❖ Deadline for submission of application is on January 31, 2007

B. **RESIDENCY:**

I. **Nuclear Medicine Division**
- Academic Graduates – Medical School
- Medical Board Passers

❖ Deadline for submission of application is on January 31, 2007

General Requirements:

1. Medical Diploma
2. Transcript of Records with the General Weighted Average
3. Itemized Board Rating
4. Three (3) letters of recommendation with at least one letter written by the Training Officer &/or Director of the previous Training Programs (duplicate letters or photocopies signed by different Doctors will not be accepted)
5. Four (4) pcs 2" x 2" colored picture

Please address your communications to:
ARISTIDES G. PANLILIO, M.D.
Department Manager II
The Department of Education, Training and Research
Philippine Heart Center
East Avenue, Quezon City

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Carmela O. Rivera or Ms. Cleopatra Q. Palencia with Tel. Nos. 925-24-01 locals 3234, 3235, 3236 & 3237 and Telefax 926-96-22 or you can email to oer@phc.gov.ph

(PDI – January 27 & 28, 2007)

A fast growing group of companies are in urgent need of the following:

SENIOR SPA MANAGER - with at least 5 years experience

CHIEF ACCOUNTANTS - preferably CPA

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER - experienced in all facets of HR functions, excellent in management/organizational skills

CHIEF MAINTENANCE ENGINEER

BUILDING ADMINISTRATOR - preferably with knowledge in golf

COST CONTROLLERS

FRONT OFFICE RECEPTIONISTS - single, must have pleasing personality and preferably can speak Korean

PURCHASING OFFICER - college graduate with experience

PANTRY CHEFS

LOCKER ATTENDANTS

SUPERVISORS for SPA - Female, Hotel and restaurant management background, has to have exceptional managerial skills, good people skills

SPA THERAPISTS -
- Physical Therapy graduate of any related background would be an advantage
- Responsible for one-on-one Facial and/or Body Treatment with different types of clients
- Experience in, but not limited to, a Spa and/or Skin Care related role is very essential
- Must be willing to learn other massage techniques and other skin care skills
- Must possess an outgoing personality with good communication skills and high personal grooming standards

UTILITY PERSONNEL - male/female, at least high school graduate

Successful candidates can look forward to a competitive compensation package, note worthy benefits and an exciting career path ahead.

Qualified candidates may send their comprehensive resumé with 2x2 photo attached and a covering letter detailing the position you are applying for to:

LASEMA PLAZA
(Makati Golf Club)
ADMIN OFFICE
7232 Malugay St., Bel-Air, Makati City
Tel. No. 830-2222 loc. 109

CAGELCO II

The **CAGAYAN II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.** is inviting qualified and interested applicants for the following positions:

1. **HUMAN RESOURCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHIEF.** Graduate of AB Psychology or other Behavioral Sciences or any related field, Graduate Studies in Psychology or Management is an advantage and with four (4) years experience in supervisory work
2. **CORPLAN/INFO TECHNOLOGY CHIEF.** Bachelor's degree in Comuter Engineering, Electronics and Communications Engineering, Computer Science or any related course with 15 units of any relevant masteral degree course. And with four (4) years of experience in a position involving management and supervision of activities related to information.
3. **MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM HEAD.** Bachelor's Degree in Computer Engineering, Electronics and Communications Engineering, Computer Science or any related course and with 3 years of experience in programming and in a position involving supervision of activities related to Information Technology.
4. **REGISTERED ELECTRICAL ENGINEER.** With 3 years work experience
5. **CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT.** With 2 years experience

Applicants may submit their application to the Institutional Services Department-HRD Section not later than February 08, 2007. For inquiries, please contact Ms. Kristine Basquez or Ms. Mae Rabanal at telephone number 078-888-2940.

(Sgd.) GABRIEL A. TORDESILLAS
General Manager

(PDI – Jan. 28, 2007)

ISO22000 accreditation granted to Alltech China's manufacturing facility

BEIJING, CHINA – Alltech China recently announced that its manufacturing facility has been granted ISO22000 registration. The certificate is one of the first to be awarded to a company in the Chinese feed industry. Alltech China strictly follows a quality control system based upon HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points), and this certification further embodies this.

The ISO 22000 standard delivers a common global framework of safety requirements for all organizations in the food supply chain, including crop production, processing, distribution, and related operations. It is an international standard that harmonizes various existing national and industry certification schemes. ISO 22000 incorporates all seven HACCP principles and implementation plans. Overall, ISO 22000 creates an effective framework for food safety management, communication along the food supply chain, and control of food safety hazards.

LET'S TALK ABOUT your Dreams your Future and your **VISA**

AUSTRALIA, U.S.A., CANADA, U.K. & SCHENGEN

Attend our FREE MIGRATION seminar on February 3, 2007, Saturday, 2 pm. @ Suite 1807 18th Floor Tycoon Centre, Pearl Drive St., Ortigas Center, Pasig City to be conducted by the Phil. Representatives of USA and Australian Immigration Law Offices.

Visit our Website Address: www.regaininc.com &, register to reserve a seat for the seminar. Resume required. REGAIN, INC. is working in partnership with a USA & Australian Immigration Law Offices in California and Sydney, Australia.

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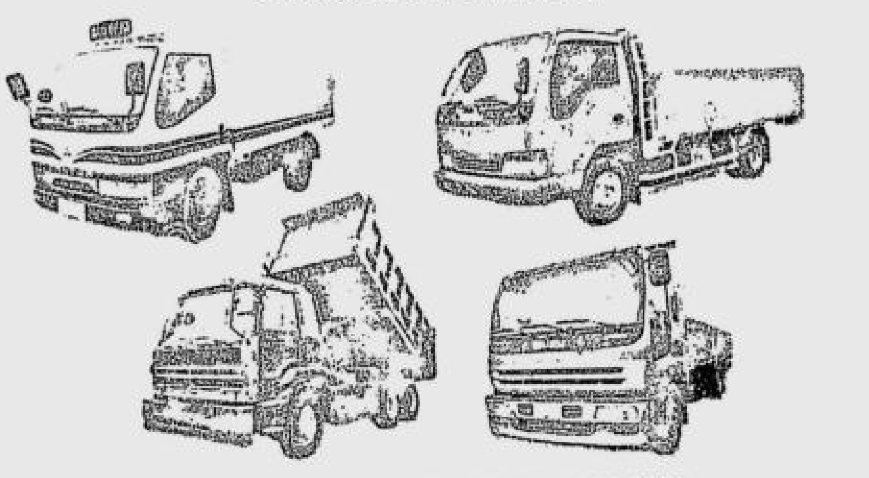
WE ACCEPT PROVINCIAL BUSINESS AFFILIATES
Contact us for Appointment
at Cellphone 0917-7387338

DIRECT IMPORTER
FOR LATEST MODEL
YEAR (1993-2000) SURPLUS TRUCKS
FROM JAPAN



DUMP TRUCK: 12PD1, 10PD1 & 10PC1 YEAR: 1989-1996
ELF WIDE CARGO 14FT.-16FT.(NEW BRAKE DRUM) YEAR 1993-1997
FORWARD GIGA TYPE ORIGINAL 8HOLES 6HE1 & 6HOLES 6BG1-T
ORIGINAL SINGLE TIRE (CANTER/ELF) 4HF1, 4D32, 4D33, 4D36, & 4M51
YEAR 1996-2000
FORWARD CANTER (4X4)

CEBU 999 TRADING
CEBU BRANCH TEL# (032) 346-6688 FAX# (032) 346-6689
CAGAYAN DE ORO
CAGAYAN BRANCH TEL# (088) 856-3033

Biggest travel and tour expo to open on next month

IN SUPPORT OF THE PHILIPPINE government's campaign of promoting tourism as a sunrise industry, the Philippine Travel Agencies Association (PTAA) announced the holding of the 14th Travel Tour Expo on Feb. 9 at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

This year's edition of the expo dubbed "Gateway to Your Dream Vacation" is expected to draw nearly 100,000 visitors who will be looking to find attractive tour packages, travel discounts, and souvenir items from the biggest travel agencies, cruise operators, airlines, hotels, resorts, and shops operating in the country.

With foreign arrivals in the country up by 18 percent last year as compared to 2005, the three-day expo will also be used by several government agencies to further promote local tourism in their respective areas.

Among the Philippine agencies participating are the Department of Tourism (DOT), Philippine Tourism Authority, Philippine Retirement Authority, Bataan Tourism Council, Cagayan Valley Region Ecotours, Department of Tourism Region 1 and 9, Davao Tourism Authority, Panglao Tourism Council, Provincial Government of Bulacan, and the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

Meanwhile, several Asian countries including China, Hong Kong, India, Macau, Malaysia, Marianas Islands, Sabah, Singapore, Taiwan, and Thailand together with Egypt, Guam, Israel and South Africa will also have their respective tourism offices present at the expo as they target the traveling Filipinos who are looking for affordable travel packages abroad.

Open to the public for a minimal entrance fee, the expo will showcase various presentations from participating companies, a diving lecture, boudaville show, dance numbers, magic show, and a raffle of surprise prizes.

This year's expo will feature 41 travel agencies; 45 hotels, resorts, and tour operators; 19 travel shops; 17 international airlines; and 5 cruise operators.

The expo is sponsored by the DOT and Philippine Airlines which is also serves as exhibitor and official carrier. Silver sponsors are Globe Handyphone and Globe Broadband; bronze sponsors, Galileo by Travelport and the Israel Embassy; and Air Philippines, airline sponsor. BCS Systems and Technologies has been tapped as the registration systems provider and Team Graphics Solutions as the identification card partner.

JOB Market Find A Career In Here.

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
Kagawaran ng Tanggulang Pambansa
Department of National Defense

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

(Night Fighting System (NFS) Ground Acquisition Project)

The project involves the acquisition of Night Vision Monoculars (NVM), Infrared Laser Aiming Device (IRAD) and Laser Zeroing Device (LZD) and their Integrated Logistics Support (ILS) package. This includes the ABC of Lot 1 (NVM – 1,440 units) of PA Project Nr AFPMP-PA-05-002-05 amounting to P350,665,460.00 previously declared as failed bidding by the DND BAC on January 26, 2007.

1. The Department of National Defense/Armed Forces of the Philippines (DND/AFP), through the Special Allotment Release Order Number D-06-01188 dated 22 March 2006 intends to apply the sum of SIX HUNDRED SEVENTEEN MILLION, ONE HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY PESOS (PHP 617,125,460.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Night Fighting System (NFS) Ground Acquisition Project. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening
2. The DND/AFP now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Night Fighting System Acquisition Project consisting of:

Name of Project: PA/PAF Night Fighting System (NFS) Project

Nr	PARTICULARS	QUANTITY	ABC
Lot 1	Night Vision Monocular (NVM)	2351	Php 532,865,460.00
Lot 2	Infrared Laser Aiming Device	911	84,260,000.00
	Laser Zeroing Device	44	
	Total		Php 617,125,460.00

3. Delivery of the GOODS is required within a period of 210 CALENDAR DAYS. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding documents, ITB.
4. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws and regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
5. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from DND Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday to Friday excluding holidays.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 50,000.00). The method of payment will be in cash or manager's check payable to DND BAC only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
7. The AFP/DND will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on January 30, 2007 at 9:00 AM at DND Conference Room, 3rd Floor, DND Bldg., Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.
8. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before February 21, 2007 at 9:00 AM. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any form and corresponding amount allowed under RA 9184 and its IRR-A. Late bids shall not be accepted.
9. Bid opening shall be on February 21, 2007 at 9:00 AM at the DND Conference Room, 3rd Floor, DND Bldg., Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. Only bids from manufacturers or their representative of the aforementioned system/equipment will be entertained.
9. To facilitate eligibility checking, manufacturers and/or prospective bidders who wish to participate in the public bidding may apply for registration with the DND BAC, through the DND BAC Secretariat, at least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled submission and opening of bids for the project pursuant to DND BAC Cir 01-2005 dtd 12 May 2005 (copy of the circular can be downloaded at the website specified below).
10. The DND/AFP reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

DND BAC Secretariat,
Room 104-A, First Floor,
Left Wing, DND Building,
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo,
Quezon City, Philippines 1110
Telephone No: (632)911-6001 local 8414
Telefax No: (632)421-3531
Email: bacsecretariat@dnd.gov.ph
Website: www.afpmodernization.gov.ph

(Sgd.) ASEC ROBERTO G NUQUI
Chairman, DND BAC

(PDI – January 28, 2007)

POEA
24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144
722-1155

Wanted Naval Architect
Call 850-8760 /
850-8589 / 850-9346
0922-876-0399

BACKHOE MECHANIC – 3 yrs. exp. • Not more than 40 yrs. old
MECHANICAL ENGR. – 3 yrs. exp. • Not more than 40 yrs. old • Licensed
INVENTORY/PAYROLL/ACCOUNTING CLERKS – Not more than 30 yrs. old • Female • Comp. literate • Graduate
Apply at 437-D A. Juan St. or call 7251114

JOB COMPACT Inquire about the JobMarket package at 897-8808 loc 514. **JOB Market**

"I am the Good Shepherd,
who is willing to die
for the sheep."
(John 10:11)

His Excellency,
Most Rev. Gabriel V. Reyes, D.D.,
the Clergy of the Diocese of Antipolo
& the bereaved family
request the faithful to pray
for the eternal repose of the soul of

REV. FR. CARMELO G. CORTEZ

who peacefully joined his Creator
on January 23, 2007 at the age of 45.

His remains lie in state at the
National Shrine of Our Lady of Peace & Good Voyage
(Antipolo Cathedral), Antipolo City.
Interment will be tomorrow, Monday, January 29, 2007
at *Himlayang Katoliko*, Antipolo City
after the 2:00 p.m. Holy Mass
at the Antipolo Cathedral.

Lito Sansano Quimbo

of 47 Stonewall Court
Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey.

peacefully joined our Creator
on January 18, 2007
at the age of 45.

He is survived by his loving wife, **Leah Vera Quimbo**;
children: **Timothy**, **Kevin**, **John** and **Mary**;
parents: **Juanita** and **Vicente Quimbo Sr.** (†);
parents-in-law: **Luis P. Vera** and
Ambassador Nida L. Vera;
sisters: **Annie**, **Mille**, **Tepton**, **Shonnie**;
brothers: **Nonoy**, **Paquito**, **Joey**;
half-sisters: **Pining**, **Etta** and **Charo** (†);
sister-in law **Lena**;
brothers-in-law: **Bobet** and **Luigi**,
brothers and sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces.

Readers are requested to pray
for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Santuario de San Antonio,
Forbes Park, Makati City.
from January 26 to 29, 2007.

Requiem Mass has been moved to Tuesday,
January 30, 2007 at 1:30 p.m.
at the Santuario de San Antonio.
Interment will follow at the Heritage Park,
Fort Bonifacio.

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

We lovingly remember our **Papa** on his
Twenty Sixth Death Anniversary

OSCAR VENTANILLA, SR.

A consummate entrepreneur,
outstanding councilor, and a benevolent father,
of Cabanatuan City who died on January 29, 1981
Holy Masses will be offered tomorrow
at the following churches:

1.	**Saint Nicholas Tolentine Cathedral** *Cabanatuan City*	All masses
2.	**Our Lady of Fatima Parish** *Philamlife Homes, Las Piñas, M.M.*	All masses
3.	**Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary** *Multinational Village, Parañaque, M.M.*	All masses
4.	**Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary** *Rosario Complex, San Pedro, Laguna*	All masses
5.	**Sto. Niño de Cebu Parish** *Biñan, Laguna*	All masses
6.	**Parish of the Holy Sacrifice** *U.P. Campus, Diliman, Quezon City*	All masses
7.	**Sta. Maria Della Strada Parish** *Katipunan Ave., Diliman, Quezon City*	All masses
8.	**St. James the Great** *Alabang Village, Muntinlupa*	All masses
9.	**St. Jerome Emiliani and Sta. Susana Parish** *Ayala Alabang Village*	All masses
10.	**Mary Help of Christians Parish** *Better Living Subdivision, Parañaque*	All masses
11.	**Immaculate Conception Parish** *Concepcion, Marikina City*	6:00 A.M.
12.	**St. Basil the Great Church** *Brecksville, Ohio, U.S.A.*	9:00 A.M.

His surviving children Dra. Gloria V. Apolonio, Atty. Oscar C. Ventanilla Jr., and Rosalinda V. Escaño; sons and daughters-in-law; and grandchildren, request relatives, friends and pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Judge Eleuterio "Terry" F. Guerrero

RTC Branch 116, Pasay City

(May 25, 1945 – January 19, 2007)

express our heartfelt gratitude
to those who condoled with us, offered Masses
and prayers, sent flowers, cards and messages of
sympathy, gave donations, visited and kept vigil,
attended the funeral rites and memorial services,
and who in countless ways comforted us
during our moments of bereavement. Please
continue to pray for his eternal repose in heaven.

"God be with you on your journey home.
We will miss you dearly."

For your Classified Ads requirements:

HEAD OFFICE:
897-8808
loc. 514, 516;
899-4425;
897-2535;
897-8425
(Telefax)

CUBAO:
912-9008 to 11
(Aurora)

MAKATI:
892-5578;
811-4361;
811-4370

KALAW:
528-0213;
527-3342

MEGAMALL:
635-0219;
635-0220

Our Dearly Beloved

ESTRELLA C. SPONSLER

Peacefully joined her Creator,
*parents **Marcelino** and **Carmen**, and daughter **Maricar***
on November 16, 2006 in Sacramento, California, USA.

Her daughter **Irene**, son-in-law **Reggie Del Carmen**, **Keigie**, **Heizel** and **Waco Mapua**, **Mariel**, **Princess**, **Galo**, **Samantha**, **Sofia**, **Jennifer**, and **Qino**, her brother **Ricardo** and his family and other siblings request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

The Holy Masses on Sunday, January 28, 2007 at the San Beda College-Alabang Church will be offered in her memory to celebrate her birthday.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

DEATH NOTICES

ESTRELLA NEBRIDA SOTTO

January 23, 1918 - January 24, 2007

Interment today, January 28, 2007, 3 pm
at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City.

SANTIAGO S. SIMPAS

passed away in the grace of our Lord on January 25, 2007.

Cremation will take place, January 28, 2007 after the 1:00 pm Mass.

MARY JAVIER RANADA

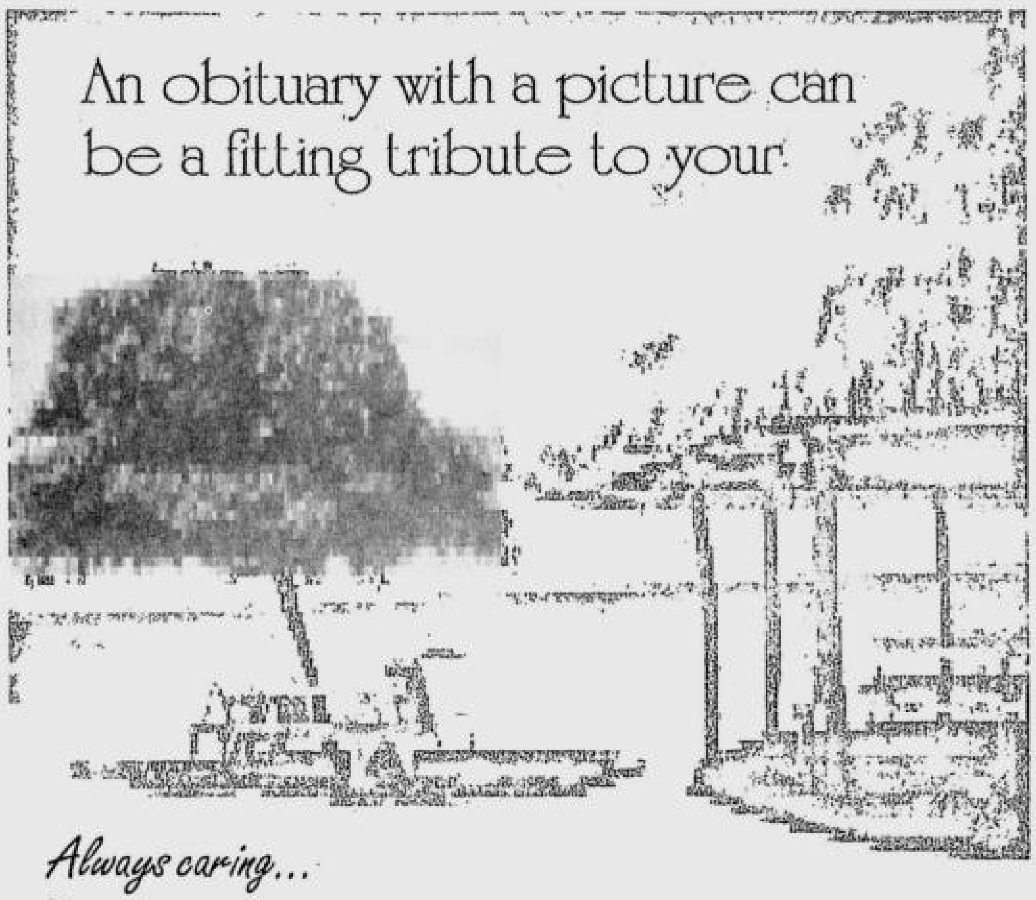
January 3, 1918 - January 24, 2007

Interment today, January 28, 2007, after the 9:00 am Mass
at the Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

MA. CONSUELO ALBANO MENDOZA

August 12, 1931 - January 16, 2007

Funeral Mass will be celebrated tomorrow, January 29, 2007
at the Lower Chapel, St. James the Great.
Inurnment will follow immediately at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque.


An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments.

MAGDALENA (MAGS) JALANDONI-JAVELOSA

Peacefully joined our Creator
on January 27, 2007 at the age of 75.

She is survived by his loving husband, **Alfredo**; her children and their spouses: **Pinky** and **Bobbit Anonuevo**, **Ramon** and **Grace**, **Oniok** and **Belen**, **Geboy** and **Irma**, **Alma** and **Sonny Timarlo**, **JJ** and **Susie**, **Joan** and **Danny de Jesus**, **Coy** and **Dindo Cortez**, **Ram** and **Pauline**; grandchildren, great grandchildren; sister **Marilou**; brothers **Cesar**, **Julio** and **Arturo**; sisters-in-law and other relatives.

Her cremains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, January 30, 2007 at Loyola Memorial, Sucat Road, Parañaque after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

CLASSIFIEDS

Holy Spirit, Thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me, I in this short dialogue want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with and my loved ones in Your perpetual glory Amen. Person must pray this 3 consecutive days, without stating one's wish. After 3rd day your wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be. Promise to publish this as soon as your favor has been granted.

TransCo caps 2006 with Philippine Quality Award recognition

THE NATIONAL Transmission Corporation ended the year on a high note as it bagged the very prestigious Philippine Quality Award (PQA) recognition for commitment to quality management.

The PQA is the highest level of national recognition for exemplary performance of private and public organizations in the country. It is conferred annually by the President of the Philippines to private and public organizations that have attained national recognition for exemplary organizational performance.

TransCo president Arthur Aguilar said its latest achievement "proves that TransCo's real assets can be found not in its billions of dollars of infrastructure and equipment but in the people who make up the organization".

"Very few organizations manage to get this recognition so it becomes more meaningful to us. The bidders for the TransCo concession can see that TransCo personnel are truly world-class. This bodes well for the privatization process and the whole country," he added.

Republic of the Philippines
TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
East Service Rd., South Superhighway, Taguig City

52nd TESDA Board Meeting
26 October 2006, Thursday, 1:00 p.m.
7th Floor TESDA Board Room, Office of the Chair
South Superhighway, Taguig City

Resolution No. 2006 – 24

APPROVING THE AMENDMENTS ON THE TRAINING REGULATIONS FOR MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION NCII

WHEREAS, Board Resolution No. 2004-02 Approving and Adopting the Training Regulations for the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Sector-Medical Transcription was promulgated by the TESDA Board during 41st TESDA Board Meeting which was held at 5 February 2004;

WHEREAS, the Education Committee of the Medical Transcription Industry Association of the Philippines, Inc. (MTIAPI) / Technical Experts have endorsed the amendments on the Training Regulations for Medical Transcription NCII (**Training Standards** with respect to trainee entry requirements, list of tools, equipments and materials, training facilities; trainers qualification and institutional assessment and **Acknowledgement**);

WHEREAS, during 17th Standard Setting and Systems Development TESDA Board-TESDA Secretariat Consultation Meeting, 26 September 2006 the amendments to the Training Regulations for Medical Transcription NCII (Training Standards and Acknowledgement) were deliberated and favorably recommended to the TESDA Board for approval;

WHEREAS, during the 46th Executive Committee-TESDA Board Meeting held on 19 October 2006, the results of the deliberation on the amendments of the Training Regulations for Medical Transcription NCII was presented and favorably endorsed for consideration and approval of the TESDA Board;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board approves the aforementioned amendments to the training regulations;

BE IT RESOLVED FINALLY, that copies of the Resolution and Amended copies of the Training Regulations for Medical Transcription NCII be published and disseminated to all concerned and shall be effective fifteen (15) days upon its publication. All programs under these amended training regulations must comply with the requirements of the aforementioned TRs Graduates of TVET courses covered by the aforementioned training regulations shall be required to undergo mandatory assessment under the national assessment and certification system.

Adopted this 26th day of October 2006.

(Sgd.) **MA. ADORINDA DEJESUS-FORRO**
Board Secretary VI

(Sgd.) **DR. AUGUSTO BOBOY SYJUCO**
Alternate Chair, TESDA Board
Secretary/Director General
Technical Education and Skills Development Authority

(PDI–Jan. 28 & 29, 2007)

TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

(REBIDDING)

Republic of the Philippines

Name of Project	**TECHNICAL EDUCATION & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**
Brief Description of GOODS	**Various Training and Testing Equipment (NDFTES-02)**
Loan Number	**NDF Credit – 331**

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a credit from Nordic Development Fund (NDF) towards the cost of the Technical Education and Skills Development Project (TESDP) being carried out by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). It intends to apply this credit for payments under the contract for **Four (4) Bid Lots for The Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of Various Training and Testing Equipment to identify TESDP Beneficiary Institutions.**
2. **The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders **for Training & Testing Packages for Various Occupational Sectors, with an Aggregate Project Cost of Approximately One Million Two Hundred Twenty Six Thousand Six Hundred Forty U.S. Dollars (US Dollars 1,226,640.00.** Delivery of the GOODS to the TESDP Institutional sites shall be ninety (90) calendars days from date of contract signing. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with relevant procedures for open competitive bidding as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", to the extent consistent with Asian Development Bank's procurement procedures as defined in "Guidelines for Procurement Under Asian Development Bank Loans," and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from The Secretariat, Bids and Awards Committee of TESDA Central Office and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday – Friday) starting January 30, 2007.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents (in hard and soft copies) may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of P10,000.00 or its equivalent in US Dollars. The method of payment will be in cash or check payable to TESDA, said payment to be acknowledged through an official government receipt (O.R.). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 A.M., March 6, 2007. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cash, cashier or certified check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit in the amount equivalent to 1% of the total bid price and Bank Guarantee in the amount equivalent to 1.5% of the bid price payable to TESDA or an equivalent amount in freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
7. Bid opening shall be held on March 6, 2007 at 2:00 P.M., at the address given below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who chose to attend.
8. TESDA will be employing a single-stage, three-envelope system of bidding, with Envelope No. 1 containing the Bidder's Eligibility requirements, Envelope No. 2 the Technical requirements and Envelope No. 3, the Bid Price. The Eligibility requirements and the Bidding Forms will be specified in the ITB and the Bidding Documents.
9. TESDA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
TEODORO S. SANICO
Chairman, Bids and Award Committee
TESDA Complex, TESDA Administration Building
East Service Road, South Luzon Expressway
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

Tel. No. : **817-40-76 to 80 and 888-5798**
Fax No. : **817-90-40**
E-mail : **psd ocsa@tesda.gov.ph**
Website : **www.tesda.gov.ph**

(Sgd.) **TEODORO S. SANICO**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Jan. 28 & Feb. 4, 2007)

FOR SALE

RESIDENTIAL CONDOMINIUM UNITS

"Doña Felisa I Condominium"
Robinson Circle Road
Henry P. Javier Street, Pasig City
Tel. Nos.: 845-2202; 813-3829

14th TRAVELTOUR EXPO 2007

GALILEO BY TRAVELPORT SUPPORTS TRAVELTOUR EXPO

Galileo by Travelport signed up for the 14th TravelTour Expo as a bronze sponsor. The 14th TravelTour Expo 2007, scheduled on Feb. 9 to 11 at the Megatrade Halls 1, 2 and 3 of SM Megamall features the widest array of travel offers available for the traveller. The expo is the ultimate destination for the best travel deals of the year. Signing the agreement are (from left) Jose C. Clemente III, President of PTAA, Andrew Ling, General Manager of Galileo by Travelport and Marciano C. Ragaza, TTE organizing committee chair.

CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES
CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
Wishes to announce its

INVITATION TO BID
"AS IS, WHERE IS"
For the sale of the following:

DESCRIPTION:

1	lot	Unserviceable office equipment, furniture & fixtures
1	lot	Kitchen equipment/utensils
1	lot	Unserviceable fire extinguishers
1	lot	Unserviceable theater equipment, video/audio equip.
1	lot	Mechanical equipment (turbo pack aircon chiller, Air cooled chiller & electric motors
1	lot	Musical instruments

Sealed bids in the prescribed form shall be received until 5:00 PM on February 07, 2007 at Property and Supply Division, Finance and Administrative Building, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City and shall then and there be opened for the sale of the item/s bidded.

All bids must be submitted with the proposal bond deposit in the form of cash or manager's check equivalent to 10% percent of the total bid price.

The said items are available for inspection during office hour from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM on February 02-05, 2007 at the CCP Bodega.

Additional information, request for inspection and bid forms may be secured from **STEVE NILO** and **RAMIL AUSTRIA** at the above address or call telephone numbers 551-00-39 and 832-36-66.

The CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as to waive any defect in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be advantageous of the Center.

(Sgd.) TERESA S. RANCES
Chairman, Committee on Disposal

(PDI--Jan. 27, 28 & 29, 2007)

Attention: **Canteen Concessionaires**

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MANILA

The International School Manila invites qualified food service operators with catering and food court capabilities to apply for Pre-Bidding qualification for the canteen concession of the International School Manila, Inc.

Interested parties must have the following qualifications:

- Currently have at least 2 outlets
- Currently service at least 1,500 customers in at least one outlet.
- Experience in serving an International menu.

Please send application letter, company profile with name of owner and contact numbers, and complete address of locations of current outlets before February 23, 2007

To: **Human Resource Director**
International School Manila
University Parkway, Fort Bonifacio
Global City, 1634 Taguig
hr@ismanila.com
Tel: **840-8505**

(PDI - Jan 28, 2007)

CALL POEA

24-HOUR HOTLINES

722-1144 or 722-1155

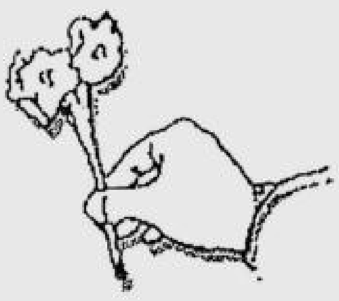
INVITATION TO BID
29.8723 Metric Tons
(0.8MM x 915MM) Cold Rolled Steel Sheets
Min. Bid Amount PHP17.05 per Kilo
January 31, 2007
2:00 p.m. @ MASCO Office
For particulars, pls. contact: Ding Placido &/or Tina Banal @ MASCO 840-3669/813-0719

(PDI - Jan. 28, 2007)

FOR SALE
5T CHUAN LI (Taiwan) Boiler
in Excellent Condition
Price: P2.5M Negotiable
FOR HIRE 800 MT LCT
Contact Analyn (082) 234-8888
Mobile: 0922-826-2494

On his *TENTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY,*

we lovingly remember



DADDY, *YOU ARE*
FOREVER *IN OUR HEARTS...*
SORELY MISSED *BY ALL OF US.*

ATTY. ROMEO REYES TICZON, SR.

(HUSBAND AND BEST FRIEND OF THE LATE ENCARNACION "NENA" LOVINA)

1997 GOLDEN SCROLL AWARDEE FOR MEDICINE AND ALLIED SCIENCES
(PARANGAL NG BAYAN AWARDS)

1997 GINTONG AMA AWARDEE (PARANGAL NG BAYAN AWARDS)

1997 GOLDEN LEADERSHIP AWARDEE FOR BUSINESS AND HERBAL MEDICINE
(SOCIAL ACTION & CIVIC MOVEMENT, INC.)

CORPORATE LAWYER, HERBAL SCIENTIST, AUTHOR OF ELEVEN (11) HERBAL MANUALS AND ONE (1) HERBAL ENCYCLOPEDIA, REALTOR, PHILANTROPIST

who died in the Grace of our Lord on ***January 29, 1997, 12:40 p.m.*** *at the age of* ***79.***

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches tomorrow, ***January 29, 2007:***

Christ the King Parish *Green Meadows Avenue, Quezon City*	*6:00 AM, 7:00 AM & 6:00 PM*
Immaculate Concepcion Parish *P. Burgos St., Antipolo, Rizal*	*6:00 AM*
St. Francis Parish Church *Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City*	*6:00 AM*
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine Parish *Doña J. Rodriguez St., New Manila, Quezon City*	*6:00 AM*
Sanctuario de San Antonio Parish *McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City*	*6:15 AM*
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Church *Magallanes Village, Makati City*	*6:15 AM*
Parish of Our Lady of Fatima *Cor. Rodriguez Ave., & Capinpin St., Bangkal, Makati*	*6:30 AM*
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish *Kalayaan, Bel-Air II, Makati City*	*6:30 AM*
Redemptorist Church *Baclaran, Parañaque City*	*6:45 AM*
National Shrine of the Most Holy Rosary *Sto. Domingo, Quezon City*	*7:00 AM*
Sanctuario de San Jose *Greenhills, Mandaluyong City*	*7:15 AM & 6:15 PM*
St. John Bosco Parish *A. Arnaiz Avenue cor. Amorsolo St., Makati City*	*7:30 AM*
Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene *Quiapo, Manila*	*5:00 PM*
Harrison Plaza Chapel *2/F, Harrison Plaza Shopping City, Malate, Manila*	*5:00 PM*
Mary the Queen Parish *Madison St., Greenhills, San Juan*	*6:00 PM*
Our Lady of the Assumption Parish *Asuncion St., Malate, Manila*	*6:00 PM*
Shrine of Mary, Queen of Peace *Our Lady of EDSA, Quezon City*	*7:00 PM*

The CHILDREN, IN-LAWS, GRANDCHILDREN and GREAT GRANDCHILDREN,

- ***JULIETA***
- ***ROMEO, JR.*** *and* ***LEONY DASCO*** *and their children ROSSANA and LITO VELASCO and their children RUTH ISABELLE, ROSS ISAIAH, ARLENE, VINCENT, DR. ADOLF, JULIUS and KAY and their children JULIO LUIS GABRIEL, KATRINA BEATRIZ, JULIANA KATHERINE*
- ***OPHELIA*** *and* ***BENNY T. CLEMENTE*** *and their daughters JACLYN, MARK and RACHELLE LLAMAS and their daughters MIKAELA RIANNA and SUZANNE*
- ***OTHELLO*** *and* ***LIZA ROÑO*** *and their children RAYMOND and his children TANYA ISABEL and ROMEO RODRIGO III, DR. MA. LUISA and her daughter MIGUELA ISABELLE PUYAT, MILAGROS and MELISSA ANN*
- ***BELEN*** *and* ***ANTONIO V. MARTEL, JR.*** *and their daughter MARIA ANTONIA LOURDES*
- ***ROSSINA***
- ***LOURDES*** *and* ***EDGAR MARTIN*** *and their children MIGUEL, ANTONIO and DEIRDRÉ*
- ***PORTIA*** *and* ***RAMON B. SANTOS*** *and their children RAPHAEL, PAULINE and GABRIEL*
- ***RUBEN*** *(deceased),*

BROTHERS-IN-LAW,
TEDDY H. LOVINA
BERT ACOSTA and
NONIE M. LOVINA,

SISTERS-IN-LAW,
DING MATIAS Vda. de LOVINA
SYLVIA RICARD-LOVINA
NING LOVINA-VILLAR
NORMA DE GUZMAN Vda de LOVINA
ISABEL VALLES-LOVINA and
MARYLOU PRIETO Vda. de LOVINA

WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND THEIR SINCEREST THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO KEEP HIM IN THEIR PRAYERS.

JOB Market
SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2007
Philippine Copyright 1995

For jobseekers, log on to:
www. jobmarketonline.com

JOBMarket is exclusively for job advertisements.
This special section comes FREE with your copy of the INQUIRER published every Sunday and distributed in key cities

RATES (R-VAT exclusive)
P230 per column centimeter every Sunday
DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Thursday 12:00 noon

Text us your feedback: Inquirer jm name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Find A Career In Here

IBMers are

Leaders

IBM Daksh recognizes your potential to go the extra mile.
Find your niche, develop your forte, and accelerate your expertise as we continuously drive innovation and excellence in our talents.

Value Champions

IBM Daksh cultivates the value of dedication, innovation, and trust and personal responsibility.
Being values-driven, our people have become successful high-flyers.

Experts

IBM Daksh develops and sharpens your craft.
Individual expertise is established and fully maximized through the wide-ranging functions we offer, world-class training, and constant collaboration with talents from across the world.

Applicants with their SSS and TIN IDs will be prioritized.

Work for a company unlike any other.
Because you are NOT like everybody else.

Be an IBMer*

IBM Daksh, leader in Business Process Outsourcing, is now hiring qualified Customer Care Specialists who can **start immediately.**

Customer Care Specialists for our Home Retail Account

- Must be a graduate of any 4-year course
- Work experience in Architecture, Interior Design or Civil Engineering is an advantage. Fresh Graduates are welcome to apply
- Must possess excellent command in both oral and written English
- Must be proficient in the use of computers and various applications
- Must be willing to work in a fast-paced, dynamic and schedule-shifting environment

Customer Care Specialists for our Fortune 500 Client Companies

- Must have completed at least 3 years of college education
- Must possess excellent command in both oral and written English
- Must be proficient in the use of computers and various applications
- Must be willing to work in a fast-paced, dynamic and schedule-shifting environment
- Experience in up-selling and cross-selling is an advantage

Customer Care Specialists for our Consumer Banking Account

- Must be a graduate of a 4-year Finance or Business-related course
- Must have 6 months call center or banking industry experience
- Must possess excellent command in both oral and written English
- Must be proficient in the use of computers and various applications
- Must be willing to work in a fast-paced, dynamic and schedule-shifting environment

Support and Leadership Positions

Operations
- Operations Manager – Financial Account
- Operations Manager – Home Retail Account
- Team Leader – Operations

Human Resources
- Manager – Employee Engagement
- Manager – Leadership Development
- Assistant Manager – Employee Relations
- Lead – Employee Relations
- Organizational Development Trainer

Recruitment
- Recruitment Associates

Workforce
- Assistant Manager – Workforce
- Sr. Associates and Leads – Workforce

Strategic Quality
- Deputy Manager – Internal Audit
- Deputy Manager – BPMS and Info Systems
- Assistant Manager – Six Sigma

Finance
- Manager – Finance Planning
- Assistant Manager – Business Control
- Sr. Associate – Tax Analyst
- Sr. Associate – Fixed Asset Custodian

Quality
- Manager – Quality (Center for Excellence)
- Team Leads – Quality
- Sr. Associates – Quality

Training
- Voice and Accent Trainers
- Product Trainers

IT
- Manager – IT Projects
- Assistant Manager – Data Network
- Technical Support Engineer
- IT Helpdesk

Talent for Innovation
IBM Daksh Business Process Services Philippines Inc.

IBM®

Apply Now!

Visit us
3/F Edsa Central Pavilion. Edsa cor. Shaw, Mandaluyong City
Mondays to Fridays 9 am to 8 pm.

840-6020

hotcareers@ph.daksh.com
Indicate position title on the subject line

BE PART OF THE WINNING TEAM !!!

Are you IN or OUT?

FAIRWAYS TOWER

metropolitan

ONE
McKINLEY
Place

If you are creative, resourceful, energetic, confident, competitive and want the chance to EARN MILLIONS YEARLY, then join us as a:

PROPERTY CONSULTANT(S)

- Not more than 30 years old, male or female
- Graduate of any four year course from a reputable school
- Possesses excellent communication skills
- Has pleasing personality and can deal effectively with clients
- Selling experience is an advantage
- Fresh graduates/ entry level applicants are welcome to apply

INCENTIVE : Possible trips in U.S. Europe and Asia for proven closers.

ONE DAY RECRUITMENT for applicants for **PROPERTY CONSULTANT(S)** is scheduled on **JANUARY 30, 2007** from 10:00 a.m.. to 4:00 p.m. at the **8/F RFM Corporate Center Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City.**

Interested applicants may contact or text 09178536539.

BROKER(S)

- Male or female
- With proven track record in real estate sales
- Will market and sell residential properties
- Possesses excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Must be flexible, aggressive, enterprising and a team player

Respondents are requested to send their resumes and recent 2x2 photo to the following addresses:

Via email : pti.hrd@ philtown.com.ph
Via mail : (please indicate position on the envelop)

PHILTOWN HRD
7/F RFM Corporate Center
Pioneer cor.Sheridan Sts., Mandaluyong

PROPERTY MANAGER

- Graduate of any four year course
- Has at least five years experience in property management
- Responsible for all property management function
- Implements programs for the maintenance and enhancement of the property
- Implements and supervises all operational functions of the different service contractors
- exceptional interpersonal skills and pleasant disposition to deal effectively with people

PHILTOWN
Philtown Properties
Beyond condos, Landmarks.

PHOENIX LAND INC. is a premiere real estate company engaged in developing high-end residential and resort projects. Our flagship project is Las Haciendas Resort Farms, an exciting 342-hectare resort-farm project in Laurel, Batangas facing the scenic Taal Lake and volcano.

PHOENIX LAND

We are currently in need of the following for immediate employment:

MARKETING SUPERVISOR

- Must posses a Bachelor's/College degree in Marketing/Mass Communications/Advertising/Media or equivalent degree
- Must posses a proven track record in Marketing for at least 3 years
- Experience in tri-media marketing an advantage
- Team player and able to work in a challenging environment

SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST

- Must be a graduate of any 4 year course, preferably Mass Communication or Business Management
- Must have at least 6 months work experience in the same field
- Must possess excellent communications and interpersonal skills
- Should have pleasing personality
- Must be between 21-25 years old
- Proficient in MS Office applications
- Can relate well with all levels of the organizations and clients.

We offer monthly allowances, generous commissions, monthly and quarterly incentives and marketing support and collaterals for lucky candidates who will occupy the following position:

SALES MANAGER

- Graduate of any four year course
- Preferably 25-40 years of age
- Must have a strong track record in sales, with at least 3 years experience as either a Senior Sales Manager
- Must be capable of organizing and motivating an entire project sales force
- Must be able to formulate strategic plans and programs to achieve sales targets
- Must have strong presentation skills

PROPERTY CONSULTANTS

- Graduate of any four year course
- With at least one (1) year experience in selling real estate properties
- Must have sold properties worth 1.5M and above
- Must have an established network of clients

Please submit your resumé with 2x2 picture @ 11/F BDO Plaza, #8737 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City and look for Ms. Vangie Ramos. You may also email your resumé at **ehramos@lashaciendas.com.ph / vangieram0s@yahoo.com.** For other details, contact 8128490, 8125059 and 830-0575.

Private Education Retirement Annuity Association
16th Floor Multinational Bancorporation Centre,
6805 Ayala Avenue, Salcedo Village, Makati City 1227

IMMEDIATE HIRING

Accounting Assistant

- CPA
- Good command of the English language (oral and written)
- With at least two (2) years work experience preferably with background in auditing
- Proficient in the use of computer preferably with experience in using an accounting software like Great Plains
- Male
- 25-30 years old

Customer Relations Staff

- Graduate of a Business Course
- Good command of the English language (oral and written)
- Proficient in the use of computer specifically Excel and MS Word
- With pleasing personality
- 25-30 years old
- With at least one (1) year work experience

Secretary

- Graduate of a Business Course
- Proficient in the use of computer specifically Excel and MS Word
- Good command of the English language (oral and written)
- With pleasing personality
- Female
- Single
- With at least one (1) year work experience preferably as secretary of an executive
- 25-30 years old

HR Assistant

- Graduate of a Psychology Course
- Proficient in the use of computer specifically Excel and MS Word
- Good command of the English language (oral and written)
- Good interpersonal skills
- Single
- 25-30 years old
- With at least two (2) years experience in all phases of administration and Human Resource Management in supervisory capacity

Data Encoders

- Graduate of any business course
- Computer Literate
- Typing skills (minimum of 40 wpm) a must
- With at least two (2) years experience
- At least 25 years old
- Single
- Female

Kindly submit your resumé by email at **peraa@peraa.org** or by fax 889-9884 or 818-7921.

A development NGO is looking for qualified applicants for the following vacant positions:

1. Research Assistant

Major Responsibilities:

1. Undertake data gathering, analysis, critique and recommendations of relevant international and national policies
2. Write policy critique, position papers, case studies, impact research, etc.
3. Monitor national and international policy issues related to agriculture, trade, food security and rural development.
4. Maintain an updated data-base on the major advocacy issues of the organization
5. Assist in publishing research outputs, policy briefings and other information materials of the organization.
6. Perform other tasks as may be required by the Research Coordinator or the Executive Director

The job requires good analytical and research skills. He/she must be a graduate of Economics or any Social Science course and must have at least one-year work experience related to research or development work. He/she must have excellent writing skills in English, must be willing to do active networking with project stakeholders, and must have strong commitment to social justice. Compensation is commensurate to experience.

2. Media and Communication Officer

1. Collect and maintain updated data and information materials on agriculture, trade, food security, rural development and related issues.
2. Prepare timely press releases, press statements and news articles to project the organization's advocacy issues, policy analysis as well as its activities and events.
3. Organize press conferences, media events and related activities to generate public consciousness on the issues being tackled by the organization.
4. Liaise with media people and partners of the organization.
5. Monitor policy developments at the national and international level.
6. Lead in communicating with the various partners of the organization in relation to its advocacies and activities.
7. Maintains and improves the list serve and web publications of the organization
8. Perform other tasks as may be designated by the Executive Director.

Qualifications:

At least one-year experience in media work including drafting of press releases and media liaison and networking. Must have excellent writing skills in English. Must know the basics of web publications and electronic mail communications. Must have commitment to social justice.

Please submit your application letter and bio-data or curriculum vitaé personally or by snail mail on or before February 15, 2007 to: The Administrative Officer, # 87 Malakas St., Pinyahan, Quezon City at telefax number 925-0987 or send electronically to **irdf@info.com.ph**

A Progressive Construction & Engineering Firm is in ***URGENT*** *need of a:*

Female Office Staff

- Graduate of 4 year College Course
- Computer Literate
- Can speak & write in English fluently
- Hardworking
- Single
- Willing to start immediately

Interested applicants may send their application letter and credentials w/ recent passport size picture at :

Unit 16-M 16th Floor Burgundy Corporate Tower,
# 252 Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
or email to takphil@takaoka.com.ph

We are a non-life insurance company, looking for a highly competent and motivated individuals for the following positions:

1. Head, Systems Development and Programs (Application Developers)

☐ Preferably, male of not more than 35 years old with pleasing personality
☐ BS in Computer Science/Information or equivalent
☐ At least two (2) years working experience in systems development and programmes
☐ Strong familiarity with the applications of Microsoft Visual Basic, MySQL Database Server and Client, Microsoft Windows 98 and XP, Linux (different distributions/flavors)
☐ Capable not just to use but also install, fine-tune and integrate all the above applications
☐ For Company's future plans, applicants should likewise be knowledgeable migration to Linux and/or other open source software; or web-based version of the G800 Software and familiar with the usage of the following:
  a. C Language
  b. Apache HTTP Server
  c. PHP
  d. Java
☐ Good communication skills

2. Marketing Officer

☐ Preferably, male of not more than 35 years old with pleasing personality
☐ BS Marketing graduate or equivalent
☐ At least two (2) years working experience in non-life insurance marketing/selling
☐ Good communication skills

Interested applicants may send their application letter with comprehensive resumé and latest photo to Philippine Fire & Marine Insurance Corp., 4th Floor SGV 1 Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Metro Manila

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For Immediate Hiring

Work starts next week!

RESERVATION & TICKETING OFFICER

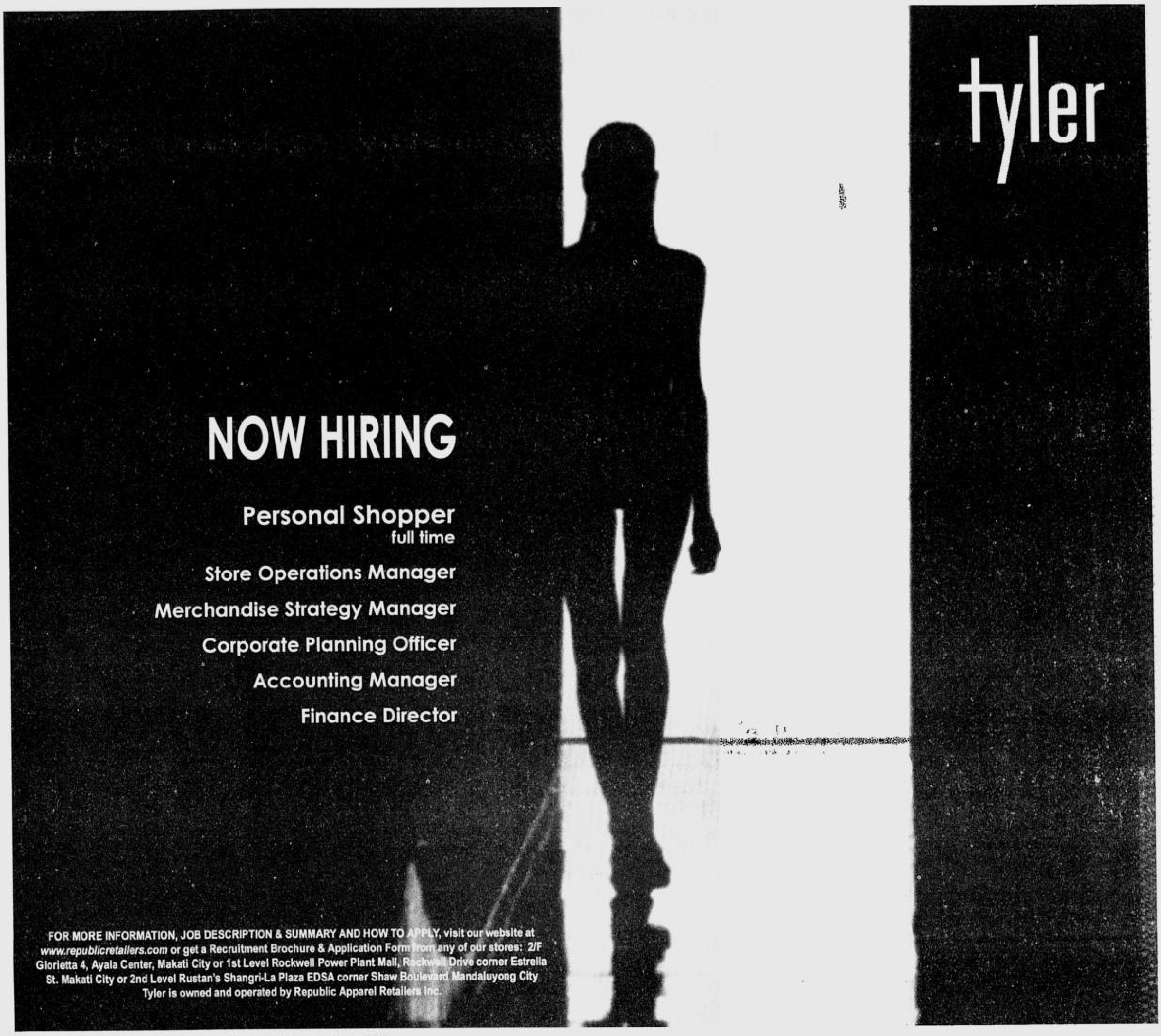
Are you:

✓ of good moral character
✓ fast learner
✓ patient
✓ cheerful
✓ snappy & quick
✓ 20 to 28 years of age
✓ graduate of Tourism or any related course
✓ proficient in English (both written & oral)

You can personally submit:

1. RESUMÉ with 2x2 picture
2. 3 character references with address and contact number

at: **ROYAL CLASS TRAVEL & TOURS, INC.**
The Xavier Hills
G/F Tower 2, Unit 3 & 4
32 N. Domingo Street corner Granada Street
Barangay Valencia, Quezon City
Contact Nos. : 721-0993 to 95 / 448-7727
Look for : Ms. Gracie Dino
Email : **royalclasstravel@gmail.com**



NOW HIRING

Personal Shopper
full time

Store Operations Manager

Merchandise Strategy Manager

Corporate Planning Officer

Accounting Manager

Finance Director

FOR MORE INFORMATION, JOB DESCRIPTION & SUMMARY AND HOW TO APPLY, visit our website at *www.republicretailers.com* or get a Recruitment Brochure & Application Form from any of our stores: 2/F Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City or 1st Level Rockwell Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Drive corner Estrella St. Makati City or 2nd Level Rustan's Shangri-La Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard Mandaluyong City

Tyler is owned and operated by Republic Apparel Retailers Inc.

A Dynamic and fast growing Company

is in need of service-oriented and young Professionals
to be part of our team.

- **Accounting Assistant**
- **Marketing/Sales Assistants**
- **Sales Manager**
- **Account Executive**
  - Must be graduate from a reputable school holding BS Marketing or Business Administration's degree
  - Must have 2 years intensive training w/ related field
  - Dedicated, Motivated and RESULT Oriented
  - Smart, Fast Learner and Must be computer literate (windows nt/xp/powerpoint)
  - Must have excellent interpersonal skills and leadership skills to train/motivate subordinates
  - Goal-oriented and able to work under pressure
  - Fluent in oral & written communications (English)
  - At least 25-35 years of age with pleasing personality

Promodisers (for SM Metro Manila)
- With 2 years experienced in Hardware Section
- Aggressive with good communication skills
- At least College level
- Must have pleasing personality between 18-30 years old

***IF YOU THINK YOU ARE QUALIFIED & WANT TO MAKE IT BIG, Send your resumé now with your most recent Picture (indicate the position applied for) at 2nd Flr., 280 San Fernando St., Binondo, Manila (5 mins Walking distance from Binondo Church) Email: sagroup@pldtdsl.net

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NOTICE OF VACANCY

SR. INVESTMENTS PLANNER
BS Commerce pref. CPA or with MBA; at least 2 yrs. exp. in investments strategy planning, development & management; at least 8 hrs relevant training

RISK MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST
Pref. business-related degree; at least 1 yr. exp. in credit policy & risk management research & development; familiar w/ financial statements & reports presentation; at least 4 hrs. relevant training

INVESTMENTS PORTFOLIO ANALYST
Banking & Finance, Economics related course; well-versed in investment risks analysis; proficient in reports & communications preparation

ACCOUNT OFFICERS (CAGAYAN DE ORO/GEN. SANTOS)
Pref. resident of area applying for; business-related degree; at least 1 yr. exp. in credit evaluation & monitoring; knowledgeable in financial projects & analysis, & MS Office applications; willing to travel within the assigned area

CI / APPRAISER
Relevant bachelor's degree; at least 1 yr. exp. in property appraisal, pref. gained from banks/similar financial institutions; pref. licensed appraiser

PROGRAMMER
Comp. Science/related degree; at least 2 yrs. exp. in Oracle Developer 2000; knowledgeable in Oracle 7.2, 8.0, 8i, 9i & PL/SQL Programming; at least 8 hrs. relevant training

** All vacancies require CSC Professional Eligibility*

HRD – Small Business Corporation
17F 139 Corporate Center, 139 Valero St.,
Salcedo Village, Makati City • Email: jpelingon@sbgfc.org.ph
Tel. 751-1888

CREW REQUIREMENTS UNTIL JUNE 2007 TO MAN ANOTHER 70 VESSELS

Our Principal *Marlow Navigation* is urgently needing the following positions for our modern Container vessels and bulk carriers:

Master	from US$5,115.-	6 mos. Contract
Chief Mate	from US$3,795.-	8 mos. Contract
2nd Mate	from US$2,640.-	10 mos. Contract
3rd Mate	from US$1,584.-	10 mos. Contract
Chief Engr	from US$4,950.-	6 mos. Contract
2nd Engr	from US$3,795.-	8 mos. Contract
3rd Engr	from US$2,640.-	10 mos. Contract
Electrician	from US$3,019.-	10 mos. Contract
C/Cook	from US$1,378.-	10 mos. Contract
Ck/B (AB/Ck)	from US$1,067.-	10 mos. Contract
Bosun/Fitter	from US$1,105.-	10 mos. Contract
K/AB	from US$1,004.-	10 mos. Contract
AB/Oiler	from US$903.-	10 mos. Contract
OS/Wiper	from US$680.-	10 mos. Contract

CHEMICAL TANKER
(With Chemical Tanker Experience)

Master	US$6,500.-	Rejoining Bonus US$300/mo.
C/Off	US$4,299.-	Rejoining Bonus US$300/mo.
C/Eng	US$6,200.-	Rejoining Bonus US$300/mo.
2/Eng	US$4,200	Rejoining Bonus US$300/mo.

GERMAN TANKER

2/OFF	US$2,970.-	Rejoining Bonus US$300/mo.
2/Eng	US$5,780.-	Rejoining Bonus US$300/mo.

Plus Seniority Bonus

Apply now and build your career with us:

Crewserve, Inc.
Rm. 401 LBH Bldg.,
1431 A. Mabini St.,
Ermita, Manila
e-mail: recruitment@crewserve.com.ph

Galant Maritime Services, Inc.
1101 Ermita Center Building
1350 Roxas Boulevard,
Ermita, Manila
PIC: C/M Norman Miranda
PIC: C/M Chito Mendoza
e-mail: recruitment_galant@marlow.com.ph
Tel. # 525-6092; 526-6888 loc 115

Take the Challenge of Being the PIONEER!

DRLAWCENTER takes the lead as a Business Outsourcing/Contact Center for legal services in the United States

INBOUND CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES

We invite all dynamic and well-motivated individuals for immediate job offers:
- College graduate, preferably with background in business or legal management
- Customer and service oriented
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills (oral & written)
- Willing to work on shifting schedules, mostly on graveyard shifts
- Computer literate

We offer a competitive compensation package:
- PHP-17k plus (inclusive of 20% night differential, transportation allowance, attendance & guaranteed performance incentives plus training)
- Regularization incentive
- Meal benefit
- Paid training

Visit our office from Monday to Friday at 9AM to 5PM.
We prefer walk-in applicants. Bring your resumé and transcript of records.
You may also email your resumé at Manilaoffice@drlawcenter.com
or fax it to 2472407, or Call us at 5670164.

Office address: 3rd Floor Textron Building, No. 168 Luna Mencias St., San Juan 1500

CBI (PHILIPPINES) INC. is a multinational company engaged in specialty engineering and construction have an immediate need for individuals seasoned by experience to fit the position:

TANK ENGINEERS (2)
- Mechanical Engineering graduate with 5 years overseas experience in tank construction
- Able to read drawings and work according to specifications.
- Capable to work independently with minimum supervision
- Good initiative, team work and leadership qualities are essentials.

PIPE PROJECT ENGINEER (1)
- Mechanical Engineering graduate with 5 to 10 years overseas experience in LNG Piping work.
- Capable to read isometrics and work in accordance to specification
- Able to supervise the piping crew and sub-contract fabrication activities

CRANE OPERATORS (10)
- 2nd year college or technical graduate; Fully conversant with load charts, lift planning, rigging and knows how to use and maintain all aspects of rough terrain and hydraulic boom crane operation (capacity of 28 tons and above)
- Holding International Crane Operator Certificate and with experience in using Grove or Terex cranes, preferred.

RIGGERS (15)
- Min (2) years experience in tank building gained from industrial construction.
- Holding a certificate of competency in Advance or Intermediate rigging course mandatory
- Trained in using Renfro plate clamp, sling, chain safety visualization and utilization of safety harnesses.

SCAFFOLDERS (10)
- Min (2) years experience in Tank Scaffolding such as Clip lock/screwed and modular type scaffolds gained from industrial construction.
- Holding Certificates of competency in Occupational Health & Safety in Intermediate or Advance Scaffolding, forklift operation and elevated work platform.

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS:
- Excellent communication skills in English both oral and written
- Physically healthy and able to work on heights.
- Willing to travel in different jobsites

Interested parties can hand carry or send their curriculum vitae, one piece 2x2 photo, school credentials and certifications to :

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
CBI (PHILIPPINES) INC.
20th Floor Equitable Bank Tower
8751 Paseo de Roxas Avenue, 1226 Makati City
Tel No. (02) 886 0211

or send email to : **rflavier@CBI.com**
(Note : Please indicate position applied on the subject line)

JOB Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

PEACE AND EQUITY FOUNDATION

The PEACE AND EQUITY FOUNDATION (PEF) is a non-stock, non-profit organization that provides development financing to empower poor communities to attain their desired quality of life. It supports best practices, innovative and trailblazing projects for basic services, livelihood and employment, and capacity development to reduce poverty. Visit **www.peacefdn.org** for more details.

The Foundation is growing and expanding its services. If you are a professional who is genuinely interested in making a difference in other people's lives by actively participating in pursuing PEF's mission, then the Foundation has a place for you. In addition to opportunities for professional growth, the Foundation offers comparative (competitive) salaries and benefits.

FINANCE MANAGER

The Finance Manager is a key staff of the foundation in making sure that all financial functions are fulfilled, specifically in the areas of financial management, accounting, budgeting, cash management and investment monitoring.

Qualifications : The candidate must be a Certified Public Accountant, has had at least five (5) years managerial or senior supervisory experience in financial management, and preferably, the candidate has at least two (2) years exposure in a non-profit organization.

Competencies : The candidate who is proactive and meticulous and who has knowledge and competence in financial management, investments, taxation, local and international accounting standards for non-profits will be strongly considered. In addition, the candidate who has good managerial and leadership skills, who can work with organization as a team, who has effective written and oral communication and who can report meaningful financial information will be preferred.

SENIOR HUMAN RESOURCE & GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER

The Senior HR&GS Officer is vital in ensuring the professional growth of the foundation's human resources to complement the expansion and growth of services. Likewise, the Senior HR&GS Officer takes charge of the maintenance and management of the foundation's offices and physical assets.

Qualifications : The candidate must have academic background in related fields (such as human resource management, labor management, or psychology) enhanced by professional experience in a similar position. The candidate must also have experience working in a non-profit organization, preferably in a supervisory position.

Competencies : The candidate who has had hands-on experience in designing and implementing human resource management programs in the areas of salary and benefits, job evaluation, performance management as well as hands-on experience in office and asset management will be strongly considered.

To Apply :

Please forward your letter of application, photograph, full curriculum vitae and academic records to :

Human Resource & General Services Unit
Peace and Equity Foundation
69 Esteban Abada St., Bgy. Loyola Heights, Quezon City 1108
Email address : hrgs@peacefdn.org
Deadline for submitting applications : 9 February 2007

The country's most widely read and circulated newspaper is in need of:

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

DESK EDITOR

QUALIFICATIONS:

- College graduate major in Journalism or any Social Sciences course
- Must have 3 years experience in newspaper Journalism
- With at least 1 year experience in editing and designing/layouting pages

REPORTERS

QUALIFICATIONS:

- College graduate major in Journalism or Mass Communication
- Computer Skills, Communication Skills, Writing Skills, Interviewing Skills, Interpersonal Skills and Research Skills
- Must have at least 1 year experience in news reporting

PRE-PRESS SPECIALIST

QUALIFICATIONS:

- College graduate preferably with background in Computer
- With solid layout and design skills set in a newspaper publishing environment
- Advanced knowledge in Photoshop, Illustrator, Freehand, Corel Draw, Pagemaker and Acrobat
- Understanding in color management systems
- Fluent in both Windows OS and Macintosh environments

EDITORIAL PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

QUALIFICATIONS:

- College graduate preferably major in Mass Communication, Journalism
- Knowledge in Pagemaker, Photoshop, or any related pagination or editing software
- Proofreading Skills, Encoding Skills, Scanning Skills, Layouting Skills

ACCOUNTING GRADUATES

QUALIFICATIONS:

- College degree holder in Accounting
- With at least 6 months to 1 year experience in Accounts receivables and/or Credit and Collection work
- Knowledge of MS Word, Excel and Powerpoint
- Can work under pressure and with minimum supervision

SYSTEMS ANALYST / PROGRAMMER

QUALIFICATIONS:

- College degree holder in Computer Science or Computer Engineering with a business background
- 1 to 2 years experience as systems analyst / programmer
- Must have work experience in Powerbuilder, MS SQL 2000, Sybase SQL or other Relational Database Management System. Knowledge in Visual Basic, VB Scripting, Perl Scripting is an advantage.
- Can work with minimal supervision

SERVICE ENGINEER

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Graduate of Computer Engineering / ECE
- 6 months to one year experience on this job
- Knowledge of computer operations systems like Windows XP and Windows 2000/MAO OS X, desktop applications like MS Office, Open Office, Email Client, Adobe products, Troubleshooting Skills, Interpersonal & Communication Skills.
- Knowledge in network

Send your application letter and comprehensive resumé to:

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
The Power of Knowing

THE HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc.
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City
E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

IMMEDIATE HIRING!!!

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR – Must be a CPA; Female; 27-35 years old; with at least 3 years experience in the same capacity in a Construction or Manufacturing company

ESTIMATING ENGINEER – 21-30 yrs.old; Male, preferably graduate of BSECE/BSEE with licensed; must have knowledge in Design & Estimating of Auxiliaries, Building Management System, PEC and Conduit Sizing

PROJECT MANAGERS/COORDINATORS – 28-35 yrs. old; M/F, preferably licensed Electrical/Mechanical Engrs.; should have at least Three Project cycle experience and knowledge of contract management; must be aggressive, result oriented with good moral character and Project Management/leadership abilities and excellent English communication skills

ENGINEERING SUPERINTENDENT – Male, 26-35 yrs. old; BSEE graduate w/ licensed; Must have 5 yrs. exp.in Design & Estimating of BMS, FDAS & other Auxiliary Systems; Should be knowledgeable in Design Considerations, Electrical & Building Codes

MECHANICAL ENGINEER – 23-30 yrs. old; Male, preferably licensed with knowledge of Project Management and Marketing; must have at least 5 yrs. experience in HVAC construction, equipment installation, testing, commissioning, operations and maintenance.

AUTOCAD OPERATORS – M/F; BSEE/ECE/ME/Drafting Technology/ Architecture graduate; with or without exp.; with knowledge in wiring installation for commercial, industrial and high-rise building; fresh graduates are welcome to apply

CADET ENGINEERS – M/F, 22-27 yrs. old; must be BSEE/BSME graduates from reputable learning institutions (fresh graduates are welcome to apply)

ELECTRICIANS - Not more than 40 yrs. old; High School or Trade School graduate; with experience in electrical wiring installation for high-rise, commercial and industrial buildings (To be deployed in Metro Manila projects)

Interested parties may apply personally with updated resumé with 2x2 ID picture, photocopy of TOR/Diploma and Certificate of Employment or may send their application to:

BETA ELECTRIC CORPORATION
The Human Resources Department
No. 18 Bagong Calzada, Ususan, Taguig City
Tel. No.: 628-4041 Fax No.: 628-0464
E-mail: bec_hrd@yahoo.com

Aseana Holdings Inc.
aseanabusinesspark.com

Positions Available:

1. **SALES AND MARKETING MANAGER** -
   Real Estate Operations
   - With experience in marketing, particularly in Sales and Leasing of Real Estate Properties (preferably, a licensed Real Estate Broker)
2. **ACCOUNTANT**
   - Must be a Certified Accountant with at least 5 years work experience.

Business Unit : Aseana Holdings Inc.
Contact Person : Mr. Andy Taningco, HRD
Contact No. : 854-5711 / Fax: 853-2590
Instructions : Interested applicants can send their resumés to the specified contact person at the 3/F Aseana Powerstation, Aseana Business Park, Pres. Diosdado Macapagal cor. Bradco Blvd., Parañaque or send them via email to **aseanabusinesspark@yahoo.com**

JOB SUMMARY:

The Marketing Manager's responsibilities are:

I. To Assist the Vice President in all Marketing, Advertising, Leasing and Selling activities of the Company's Real Estate Projects.
II. Review Sales and Lease Contract of prospective buyers/lessees.
III. Coordinate with Brokers for Sales and Marketing Programs

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CEBU DAILY NEWS

The country's most widely read and circulated newspaper is in need of the following for its sister company in Cebu City.

COPY EDITOR (2 SLOTS)

- We're looking for wordsmiths who can edit reports with a critical eye and a sense of urgency.
- Daily deadlines are part of our life. So is coffee, working at night and keeping abreast of current events, trends and issues.
- The applicant must know how to tell a story in simple and direct English.
- A degree in Mass Communication is not a requirement but being a wide reader is high on the list.
- If you know MS Word, we can train you to use a special computer program geared for editors who write, edit and lay out pages.
- We value idealism and credibility.
- Working with CDN means you believe in the freedom of ideas and the call of a public service.
- If you seek the satisfaction of making a difference in the lives of thousands of readers in Cebu and cyberspace, this could be the job for you.

HR SUPERVISOR

- Psychology or Behavioral Science graduate, preferably female
- Must be a resident of Cebu City or nearby areas
- With at least 5 years experience in entire HR
- Knowledgeable in labor relations
- Preferably with experience in timekeeping and payroll preparation
- Proficient in oral and written communications
- Equipped with the following competencies: Negotiating Skills, Interpersonal Skills, Decision Making, Policies and Procedures, People Management Skills, Leadership Skills
- With basic knowledge of computer operations

Interested applicants should send their application letter and comprehensive resume to:

CEBU DAILY NEWS
Kaohsiung St. Cor. S.Osmeña Road,
North Reclamation Area, Cebu City 6000

E-mail: aoasan@fep.ph

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

HINGE INQUIRER PUBLICATIONS, a dynamic company engaged in the publication of the most influential niche magazines today, is in immediate need of the following:

HR ASSISTANT

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Graduate of Psychology or Behavioral Science
- An experience in recruitment and selection would be an advantage
- Familiar with psychological tests
- Interpersonal and Communication Skills, Analytical Skills, Report Writing Skills

ACCOUNTING GRADUATES

QUALIFICATIONS:

- College degree holder in Accounting
- With at least 6 months to 1 year experience in accounting work
- Preferably with background in payroll
- Knowledge of MS Word, Excel and Powerpoint
- Can work under pressure and with minimum supervision

SERVICE ENGINEER

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Graduate of Computer Engineering / ECE
- 6 months to one year experience on this job
- Knowledge of computer operations systems like Windows XP and Windows 2000/MAC OS X, desktop applications like MS Office, Open Office, Email Client, Adobe products, Troubleshooting Skills, Interpersonal & Communication Skills.
- Knowledge in network

email address: spanlilio@inquirer.com.ph

hinge inquirer
PUBLICATIONS

Interested applicants may also bring their resumé, two (2) 2x2 photos, Transcript of Records, and any valid I.D. to our office at Unit 330, Mile Long Building, Amorsolo corner Javier Streets, Makati City, from Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm ● Tel. Nos.: 759-2284, 759-2024, 840-0196, 813-6848

A leading Agro-Industrial Machinery Company has opening for the following positions:

SALES ENGINEER

- Male, 25 to 30 years old
- Preferably licensed Agricultural Engineering or Mechanical Engineering Graduate
- Must have at least 3 years experience in selling agricultural equipment, or similar products
- Willing to travel and be assigned anywhere in the Philippines
- Must possess valid driver's license
- Preferably computer literate

PARTS SALESMAN

- Male, 25 to 30 years old
- Preferably Mechanical Engineering graduate
- Must have adequate knowledge of parts operation (inventory & warehousing)
- Must possess good communication skills
- Must be computer literate
- With valid driver's license

SERVICE MECHANIC

- Male, 28 to 30 years old
- Graduate of Trade or Vocational School, or mechanical engineering course
- At least 3 years work experience in repair/maintenance of diesel engines, agricultural tractors, and similar equipment
- With valid driver's license
- Willing to travel and be assigned anywhere in the Philippines

SERVICE ELECTRICIAN

- Male, 28 to 32 years old
- Graduate of 3 years Electrical / Electronics Technology course
- Preferably licensed Master Electrician
- Must possess valid driver's license
- Willing to travel and be assigned anywhere in the Philippines

Interested applicants may send or bring their comprehensive resumé, supporting documents and colored ID photos to:

KUBOTA AGRO-INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY PHILIPPINES, INC.
155 Panay Avenue, South Triangle, 1103 Quezon City
Tel. Nos.: (63-2) 920-1071 to 74 ; Fax No.: (63-2) 924-1848
Email: kampi@kubota.com.ph

SANITARY CARE PRODUCTS ASIA, makers of quality tissue paper products such as **Sanicare**, **Tisyu**, **Jade**, **Femme** and **Cheers**, is looking for qualified professionals for the following positions.

(3) Accounting Staff (Manila)

- Must be an Accounting graduate.
- Preferably female not over 25 years old.
- Willing to work at long hours or under pressure.
- Work experience in previous company is an advantage.
- Must be computer literate.
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply.

(1) Marketing Staff (Manila)

- Preferably business degree holder
- Experienc in handling sales, promotions and marketing activities.
- Capable of doing clerical works, coordinated product presentation and other marketing related activities.
- Good in oral and written communication skills.

Institutional Sales

(Iloilo / Bacolod / Bohol / Samar and Leyte)

- Graduate of any 4 years business related course.
- Male or Female not over 30 years old.
- Self starting and aggressive
- At least (1) year experience in related field.
- Excellent communication skills and computer literate.

Trade Sales (North Cebu / South Cebu / Samar and Leyte)

- Graduate of any 4 years business related course.
- Male or Female not over 30 years old.
- Experience in supermarket sales.

Trade Administrator (Mindanao)

- Excellent leadership skills, entrepreneurial mindset and problem solver.
- Willingness to travel often.
- Excellent academic & work background.

Please submit your comprehensive resumé to: *Sanitary Care Products Asia, Inc., #25 First Avenue, Bagumbayan, Taguig City* or send to *hrd@sanicare.com.ph*

A large Australian Company specialising in the Storage; Distribution; Express Freight; Abnormal/Oversize Loads & Chemical Transportation is seeking candidates with the following attributes:

TRANSPORT/LOGISTICS MANAGER

It is essential applicants can meet the following criteria:

- Excellent English language skills-spoken, written, reading. Must be able to read, understand and interpret documentation, read road maps/signs, plus good telephone manner
- Pass a fitness for duty pre-employment medical
- Have good hygiene, personal cleanliness and overall presentation
- Ability to obtain an Australian Driver's License-minimum of 'Heavy Rigid' (Single Axle Steer, bogie drive rear), but preferably experienced in driving semi-trailers
- Ware house control
- Loading/Unloading- manually (good level of physical fitness required), and utilizing fork lifts, etc. Ability to obtain license to operate 2 – 30 tonner fork lifts/shipping container loaders
- Secure "Dangerous Goods" and all forms of freight
- Assist with 'tarping' – covering loads for weather protection
- Check Inwards & Outwards documentation for all loads
- Maintain Depot and sites tidiness (good 'housekeeping')
- Become familiar/comply with Australian Transport Occupational Health & Safety regulations
- Allocate vehicles for pick-up and delivery of freight

This is an offer of long term employment, with the potential to fulfill a more senior management role in the organization. Successful applicants must be prepared to take/follow instructions from co-workers and management.

Excellent remuneration and conditions offered to candidates who can meet the aforementioned criteria.

Note: Interviews for selected candidates will be conducted in Manila, in early February 2007

FAX / EMAIL YOUR RESUME TO:
Drilling Advisory & Logistics Corp.
Fax: (632) 9273267
Tel: (632) 9273265, (632) 9268826
Email: tptuason@yahoo.com
rpaladio_drillingadvisory@yahoo.com

DESTILERIA LIMTUACO & CO., INC.
and its affiliates urgently needs the following:

DESTILERIA LIMTUACO & CO., INC.
Established in 1852

LOGISTICS MANAGER

Male, not more than 45 years old, graduate of any business course. With at least five years related work experience.

(2) PRODUCTION SUPERVISORS

Male, not more than 40 years old, preferably BSEE graduate. With at least 3 years work experience in a manufacturing plant.

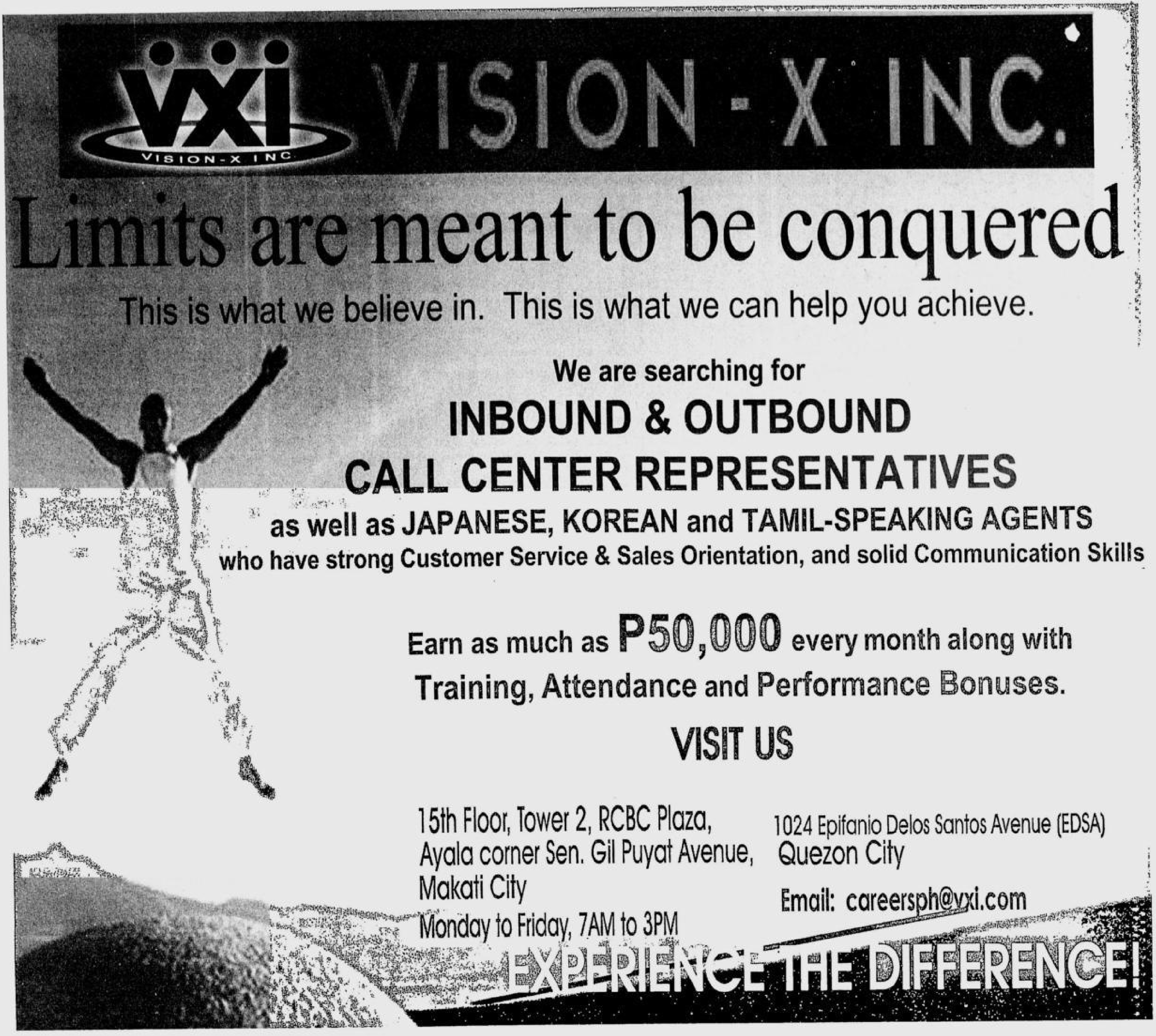
(3) SECRETARIES

Female, single, not more than 30 years old, computer-literate, pleasing personality

(4) ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT / (4) SALES COORDINATORS

Male, single and not more than 35 years old, college grduate, computer-literate, honest, hardworking, knows how to drive and preferably a holder of a professional driver's license.

Interested applicants may apply in person at
1830 EDSA, Quezon City call 361-7491
loc. 813 or 814 for appointment or emailhrd@limtuaco.com



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Limits are meant to be conquered

This is what we believe in. This is what we can help you achieve.

We are searching for

INBOUND & OUTBOUND
CALL CENTER REPRESENTATIVES
as well as JAPANESE, KOREAN and TAMIL-SPEAKING AGENTS
who have strong Customer Service & Sales Orientation, and solid Communication Skills

Earn as much as P50,000 every month along with Training, Attendance and Performance Bonuses.

VISIT US

15th Floor, Tower 2, RCBC Plaza,
Ayala corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue,
Makati City
Monday to Friday, 7AM to 3PM

1024 Epifanio Delos Santos Avenue (EDSA)
Quezon City
Email: careersph@vxi.com

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE!

MEDICAL CENTER PARAÑAQUE, INC.

Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat Road, Parañaque City

If you are proactive, customer service oriented, with dynamic leadership skills and loves to deal with people, then you are the one we are looking for:

1) NUTRITIONIST-DIETITIAN

- A licensed Nutritionist-Dietitian
- Must have at least 1 year work experience in the hospital
- Hardworking, flexible and honest

2) RESIDENT PHYSICIANS (ER)

- Hardworking, flexible
- Can work long hours

3) MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIST/ MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

- A licensed Medical Technologist or a graduate of Medical Technology
- With good moral character and not more than 30 years old
- Willing to be trained in all sections of the laboratory
- Can work on any work shift schedule

4) PHARMACIST

- A licensed Pharmacist
- Not more than 35 years old
- With good moral character

5) RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST/ X-RAY TECHNOLOGIST

- A licensed BS Radiologic Technology or X-Ray Technology
- Not more than 30 years old, can work on any work shift schedule
- Preferably with experience in General Ultrasound, CT-Scan

6) RESPIRATORY THERAPIST

- A graduate of BS Respiratory Therapy
- Willing to be trained and can work on any work shift schedule

Please bring your resumé, 1x1 ID picture, photocopy of diploma, transcript of records, license and PRC board rating and submit to Ms. Dhang Ponteres of Personnel Department with telephone numbers 825-6911-15 or 8200290-91 local 135.

URGENT HIRING

WE NEED THE FF:

- BOOKKEEPER
- ACCOUNTING CLERK
- JAPANESE COOK
- ASSISTANT COOK
- KITCHEN HELPER
- COOK-with knowledge and experienced on Chinese and Filipino food
- CASHIER
- FOOD ATTENDANT

For interested applicants:
Please submit printed resumé with pictures and complete details of working experience, latest NBI clearance.

Apply in person at:
Yatai Ramen Restaurant
Along Seaside Macapagal Blvd., Pasay City
every Mon. to Fri. 2pm to 6pm only
Tel. No. 616-4194 / 0918-9791093
Protestant and Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) are welcome

FASTPAK GLOBAL EXPRESS CORP.

Our company urgently needs the following persons:

1) I. T. Personnel
- Male or Female
- Single; Ages 20-25 y/o
- Graduate of BS Information Technology
- Background in the ff. functions: Network Administration, programming for Powerbuilder
- can work under pressure

2) Credit & Collection Head
- Male or Female; Ages 25-30 y/o
- Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) or non-CPAs are encouraged to apply
- computer literate
- with strong background in accounting processes
- with above average leadership skills, communication & problem-solving skills

3) Systems Engineer
- Male or Female; Ages 21-30 y/o
- Graduate of BS Industrial Engineering
- with at least 1 year experience in a logistics company
- analytical, adaptable to change, can work under pressure

Call 829-F-A-S-T (3278) local 825 for scheduling of exams. Look for Ms. Kahrina Vizcarra (HR Specialist);
or
E-mail your resume to klvizcarra@fastgroup.biz

HIMLAYANG PILIPINO, INC.

Is urgently seeking applicants for the position of:

PARK OPERATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

- Male or Female, 30-40 years old
- Licensed Civil Engineer
- Must have at least 2-year experience in memorial park operations and development or related business
- With experience in horizontal projects such as; roads, curbs and gutters including drainage, irrigation system, landscaping and bridge construction
- With leadership skills

AUDIT SUPERVISOR

- Male or Female, 27-35 years old
- Graduate of business course, major in Accounting
- Must have a sufficient experience in Accounting or Auditing works
- With capability to lead and supervise a group of auditors and set / implement effective audit plans
- With good oral and written communication skills

Interested applicants are encouraged to apply in person, Monday to Friday, with application letter, curriculum vitaé, transcript of records and 2x2 ID photo, or send these to this address:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
#1610 Triumph Bldg., 6th Flr., Quezon Ave., Quezon City
Tel. # 927-9671 to 75 local 230 / 216
Email – hpihppi@info.com

A.I.M.S ADNAN Int'l. Manpower Services

POEA LIC. 208-LB-073003-R

"NEEDED FOR THE FOLLOWING JOB CATEGORIES"
FOR DOHA QATAR

GOLDEN MEDAL TRADING & CONT, CO.
(POEA REG NO: 10004723)

A. CLAIM OFFICERS

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Male
- Must be a University gradeate in Engineering
- 5 years experience in insurance company or surveyor or loss adjuster

B. DATA PROCESSOR

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Female
- With very good command in English
- With 3 years experience in the same field
- Must have good computer skills

C. OFFICER -MEDICAL CLAIMS

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Female
- To perform and supervise the processing of notified claims received by Company and settlement of approved and agreed claims in accordance with company approved authority limits.
- Must have been employed in the marine/non-marine claims
- With six (6) years experience in insurance business
- With two years university degree, or to have an associate level professional qualification in insurance/claim related science (such as ACII, HIAA, etc.)
- Very good command of English

D. OFFICER-MEDICAL INSURANCE UNDERWRITING

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Female
- To perform the underwriting activities in his section from the preparation of quotations and policies to the renewal of policies
- Must have been employed in the marine/non-marine insurance
- With experience for at least 6 years, 2 years of which should have been gained in a similar position
- Must be a two years university degree holder or an associate level professional qualification in an insurance/actuarial science (such as ACII, HIAA, etc.)

E. OFFICER-BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Female
- To sell insurance policies and follow-up on renewal of business
- University degree holder in Marketing or with more years of experience
- Must have at least five years previous experience in sales and marketing and preferably in insurance industry
- With very good command of English and Arabic languages
- With special training in insurance

Applicants must apply personally at the address below.
Applicants are requested to bring two (2) sets of resumes.
Applicants are requested to bring the following original documents: Employment Certificate, School Credentials, original passport, and 10 pcs. 2x2 colored picture with name plate

ADNAN INTERNATIONAL MANPOWER SERVICES
(POEA LIC. 208-LB-07003-R)
1081 Room K&M Ground Floor, Ramagi Bldg., Pedro Gil St., Paco, Manila
Tel. nos. 536-6543/526-5564 Fax no. 536-6541
Email: adnan@surfshop.net.ph
FOR MANPOWER POOLING ONLY. NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED.
"MAG-INGAT SA MGA ILLEGAL RECRUITER"

DUBAI DRYDOCKS حوض دبي الجاف

Website : www.drydocks.gov.ae
E-mail : drydocks@drydocks.gov.ae
Fax : 00971-4-3450116
Address : P.O.Box 8988, Dubai, U.A.E.
Accreditation No. 68576-11

DUBAI DRYDOCKS is a leading ship repair/conversions and new building yard with three very large graving docks, a panamax size floating dock and extensive workshop facilities. The company commenced operations in 1983 and currently employs approximately 8,500 multi-national employees from 30 countries. Presently within the company's Production Division, vacancies exists for:

WORK PREPARATORS

As a member of the Pipe Department team the successful candidate will be expected to have knowledge of different drafting/Design software AutoÇAD and other software like PDS, Tribon or equivalent piping software is desirable. The role demands familiarity with the Classification Society rules or IACS for marine piping construction / design and the piping materials international standard comparison and materials alternatives is desirable. The ideal candidate should have a technical education or qualification from a recognized institution with a minimum 5 years experience preferably in major shipbuilding / repair yard or oil & gas industries as a Piping draughtsman.

FOREMEN-PIPE FABRICATION

As a member of the Pipe Department team the role demands basic knowledge on marine piping system, ASME B31.3 and associated piping classification code and standard. The successful candidate will also be expected to have a reasonable knowledge with the Classification Society rules or IACS for marine piping construction / design and be conversant with recognized safe working standard and practices; quality work standard. The ideal candidate should have a technical education or qualification from a recognized institution with a minimum 5 years experience in major shipbuilding / repair yard or oil & gas industries as a Piping Foreman or Leadman. This role also demands the ability to manage the assigned tasks independently with minimum supervision as well to manage a team of multiple nationality workforces.

FOREMAN- PIPE WELDING

As a member of the Pipe Department team the successful candidate will have basic knowledge on welding on different piping materials, related welding procedures and NDT and inspection procedures like Visual inspection, MPI & DPT .The role demands familiarity with the ASME Section IX and AWS requirements for pipe welding including awareness of procedures relating to handling welding consumables and heat treatment. The ideal candidate must have a strong background as a SMAW and GTAW 6G welder and be fully conversant with recognized safe working standard and practices; quality standards. The ideal candidate should have a technical education or qualification from a recognized institution with a minimum 5 years experience in major shipbuilding / repair yard or oil & gas industries as a Welding Foreman or Leadman.

We offer an attractive employment package, including a competitive salary (currently tax-free) depending on the experience of the individual, overtime as applicable, free medical, to & fro travel, accommodation with recreation facilities and designated Filipino mess hall. The employer's representative will be present for WALK-IN interview in the following locations as per schedule given below

- **Manila 28th. 29th & 30th January 2007**
- **Olongapo 1st, 2nd & 3rd February 2007**
- **Cebu 5th, 6th & 7th February 2007**

If you are interested in working for a Premier Shipyard in the Middle East please send your application with C.V / Resumé to Dubai Drydocks and/ or through our Manpower Service Providers.

OMS PHILS. CORPORATION
POEA Lic. No. 557-LB-050504-R
OMS Building, 837 Maria Clara Street,
Mandaluyong City 1550
Web : www.omsphils.ph
e-mail : info@omsphils.ph,
applicants@omsphils.ph

Phone : 0063 2 532 5035
Fax : 0063 2 532 5042

CELESTIAL INTERNATIONAL
Manpower Services, Corporation
POEA Lic. No. 206-LB-072503-R
12 Marunong Street, Barangay Central
Quezon City
e-mail :
celestial@speed.info.com.ph

Phone : 0063 2 928 8389
Fax : 0063 2 928 8479

DUBAI DRYDOCKS حوض دبي الجاف

Website : www.drydocks .gov.ae
E-mail : drydocks@drydocks.gov.ae
Fax : 00-971- 4- 3450116
Address : P.O.Box 8988, Dubai, U.A.E.
Accreditation No. 68576-11

DUBAI DRYDOCKS is a leading ship repair/conversions and new building yard with three very large graving docks, a panamax size floating dock and extensive workshop facilities. The company commenced operations in 1983 and currently employs approximately 8,500 multi-national employees from 30 countries. Presently within the company's Production Division, vacancies exist for:

SR. WORK PREPARATORS

As a senior member of the Steel Department team the successful candidate will be expected to have good knowledge of preparation of steel drawings using AutoCAD 2000 software. The role demands familiarity with the Classification Society rules or IACS for marine Steel construction / design and the Steel materials international standard comparison and materials alternatives. The candidates should be able to identify steel works and prepare "mark-up" drawings, proposal drawings for approval, fabrication drawings and work processes. This role also demands the ability to manage the assigned tasks independently with minimum supervision and be able to liaise with Owners Representatives and Production Staff. The ideal candidate should have a technical education or qualification from a recognized institution with a minimum 5 years experience preferably in major shipbuilding / repair yard or oil & gas industries / steel ship's conversions as a Steel Draughtsman or Work Preparator. Naval architect education would be advantageous. Good command of written and spoken English language is essential.

WORK PREPARATORS

As a member of the Steel Department team the role demands basic knowledge on marine Steel structures and associated Steel classification codes and standards. The successful candidate will also be expected to have good knowledge of preparation of steel drawings using AutoCAD 2000 software, a reasonable knowledge with the Classification Society rules or IACS for marine Steel construction / design and be conversant with recognized safe working standard and practices; quality work standard. The role demands identifying the scope of work from Owner's specifications, tenders, work lists and on-board and shop inspections, preparation of drawings for structural and miscellaneous steel repairs, proposal drawings for approval, fabrication drawings and work processes. The ideal candidate should have a technical education or qualification from a recognized institution with a minimum 3 years experience in major shipbuilding / repair yard or oil & gas industries as a Steel Draughtsman or Work Preparator. Good command of written and spoken English language is essential.

We offer an attractive employment package, including a competitive salary (currently tax-free) depending on the experience of the individual, overtime as applicable, free medical, to & fro travel, accommodation with recreation facilities and designated Filipino mess hall. The employer's representative will be present for WALK-IN interview in the following locations as per schedule given below.

- **Manila 28th, 29th & 30th January 2007**
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If you are interested in working for a Premier Shipyard in the Middle East please send your application with C.V / Resumé to Dubai Drydocks and/ or through our Manpower Service Providers.

OMS PHILS. CORPORATION
POEA Lic. No. 557-LB-050504-R
OMS Building, 837 Maria Clara Street,
Mandaluyong City 1550
Web : www.omsphils.ph
e-mail : info@omsphils.ph,
applicants@omsphils.ph
Phone : 0063 2 532 5035
Fax : 0063 2 532 5042

CELESTIAL INTERNATIONAL
Manpower Services, Corporation
POEA Lic. No. 206-LB-072503-R
12 Marunong Street, Barangay Central
Quezon City
e-mail : celestial@speed.info.com.ph
Phone : 0063 2 928 8389
Fax : 0063 2 928 8479

Needed: People (M/F) who can engineer and communicate well with Computers, Printers, Customers, co-staff members and v.v. in a very good manner effectively!

For Technical Services Staff dealing with our vast-expanding client base.
We are looking for those who can systematically develop networks as well as repair printer systems and pro-actively create solutions to solve urgent client needs. Ability to solve printer problems with people and network systems a plus.

If so, you could be the ones we are looking for!
As long as you are a graduate of a good Computer Technician/ Engineering School and in good health.

Send your Biodata with picture and letter of application to PDI Box MN-002-07
PDI Bldg. cor. Yague and Mascardo Sts., Chino Roces Ave., Makati City (Classifieds Department)

CONSORZIO ASIA INC. is a fast growing retail company of ladies footwear who acquired the franchise of VIA UNO a new and stylish imported brand is currently in need of highly competent individuals for the following positions:

AREA MANAGER

- Female, not more than 35 years of age
- 4 years Graduate of any related course
- Experience in retail operations setup is a must
- With strong leadership, can train staff and computer literate
- Proficient in both verbal and written communication
- At least 3 years of working experience in the related field
- Willing to assign in Marikina area

OPERATION ASSISTANT

- Female, 20-23 years of age
- Graduate of any 4 years Business course
- Computer literate and highly organized
- Presentable and with good interpersonal skills
- Analytical and capable of multi-tasking
- Willing to work extended hours and do field works
- Experience in office admin or retail operations is a must
- Can start immediately

ENCODER

- Male or Female, not more than 30 years of age
- IT graduate or any computer related course (preferably 4 years)
- Knowledgeable in picture editing, trouble shooting and network connection are advantage
- A team player with strong sense of initiative, organized and fast learner
- Willing to work extended hours and do multi-tasks
- Fresh graduate are welcome to apply

OFFICER IN CHARGE

- Female, not more than 30 years of age, Single
- Graduate of any 4 year course, college level and vocational graduate are accepted
- With experience in sales cash handling and front-end operations
- Possess exceptional leadership skills
- Willing to work on weekends and holidays
- Customer-oriented and with pleasing personality
- Willing to assign anywhere and can start immediately

WAREHOUSE QUALITY CONTROL

- Male, not more than 30 years of age
- At least college level
- With 1 year experience in the same position and industry
- Has good interpersonal skills and a team player and detail oriented
- With good comprehension and communication skills
- Must be flexible, trustworthy and can work with less supervision
- Willing to work on extended hours, weekends, holiday and open for field work assignment

You may apply personally together with your comprehensive resumé at #311 J.P. Rizal St., Sta. Elena, Marikina City and look for Ms. Jane Alvarado at Human Resource Department. Tel. No. 647-9039

NORWEGIAN TRAINING CENTER-MANILA

Is in need of

INSTRUCTORS

for our Yr. 2007 Programs:

ELECTRO TECHNOLOGY
MGMT. LEVEL COURSE – DECK/ENGINE COURSES
CRANE / BRIDGE / DYNAMIC POSITIONING COURSES

What We Are Looking For?	Requirements
One (1) Master or Chief Officer	1. Preferably with experience in Chemical and Oil Tankers 2. Both seagoing and non-seagoing applicants are welcome.
One (1) Master	1. Preferably not an active seafarer. 2. Experience in using simulator is not required. We will train successful candidate to handle ship handling simulators at SMS, Trondheim, Norway.
One (1) Chief Engineer or 2nd Engineer	1. Preferably not an active seafarer. 2 To be trained to handle FRAMO courses.
One (1) Chief Engineer	1. Preferably not an active seafarer. 2 To be trained to handle the Mgmt. Level courses
Three (3) Dynamic Positioning Operators	1. Must be certified Dynamic Positioning Operators. 2. Seagoing and non-seagoing applicants are welcome. 3. Will be trained in SMS Trondheim, Norway.
One (1) Crane Simulator Operator	1. Crane and lifting experience necessary. 2. Has worked onboard a vessel/installation as a crane operator. 3. Preferably non-seagoing applicants 4. Will be trained in SMS Trondheim, Norway
One (1) Electro Technical Engineer	1 BS degree holder of ECE or EE 2. Preferably had sea-time for at least 12-months in international trade as an Electrician

Who Are We?

The Norwegian Training Center-Manila of the Norwegian Maritime Foundation of the Phil's., Inc (NMFPI) was founded in May 1990 for the purpose of ensuring competent training and to promote quality shipping.

We offer varied courses from Ship and Cargo Handling, Management; Technical, Safety Courses; Welding; and Culinary Courses

Our faculty of Norwegian and Filipino mariners is trained to teach with confidence aided by modern teaching aids and methods

NORWEGIAN TRAINING CENTER-MANILA (NTC-M) and SHIPS MANEUVERING SIMULATOR CENTRE AS (SMSC) in Trondheim, Norway are joining forces in order for NTC-M to be able to offer new products within simulator training to the shipping industry in the Philippines

A new wing at the NTC-M complex has been built in September 2005. This will give us first class facilities for our instructor - four new classrooms and a special area for new simulators

New simulators such as Dynamic Positioning Systems for DP certificate, Offshore Crane Simulator for crane certificate and LNG Simulator has been installed this year and courses will be offered to the industry soon

A new state of the art bridge simulator will be installed within the year 2006.

connection with this development, new instructors will be hired and trained partly in Norway and partly at NTC-M in Manila

We are looking for both active sailing senior officers that are willing to teach during the vacation period and personnel that look for a permanent employment with NTC-M.

For applications please contact either of the following Address:
Ms. Blesila G. Tani-Salva, Administration Manager

Norwegian Training Center-Manila
NTC-M Building, Gate 2 TESDA Complex,
East Service Road, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tel No : 812-07-42
Website www.ntcm.com.ph
E-mail admin.manager@ntcm.com.ph

VETERINARIAN WANTED

by a growing vet-drug sales company based in Central Luzon.

Position offered

VET Sales Representative

for companion animal products

Qualifications:

- Male or Female
- Driving in Metro Manila
- Hardworking and with pleasant personality

Call (045) 861-4355 or Text 0920-2936030

LOURDES SCHOOL OF MANDALUYONG
Shaw Blvd., Greenhills, Mandaluyong City 1552
Webpage Address: www.lsm.edu.ph
P.O. Box 12959 Ortigas Center Pasig City 1605
6311921; 6329547; 6316307; 6316356; 6339443; 6316310

WANTED FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2007-2008

ELEMENTARY & HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

Applicants must be Catholic, not more than 35 years old, with above average scholastic records and must have passed the L.E.T. (Licensure Examination for Teachers).

ATTRACTIVE SALARY AND BENEFITS
AWAIT SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS.

Apply personally and bring your transcript of records for interview on February 5, 6, 7 & 8 at 8:00 am - 12 noon.

(ALL CLASSROOMS ARE FULLY AIR-CONDITIONED)

PAMATEC

JOB OPENINGS FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!

A leading company in power is currently in the process of expansion and is looking for the best candidates to fill the following Makati-based positions:

SENIOR SALES MANAGER:

1. With at least 5-10 years experience in business development in the power solutions business (UPS, TVSS, Rectifiers, Inverters, Batteries)
2. Excellent and verifiable sales track record (25-50M/year)
3. Success in managing key accounts in the Philippine Telecomm, ICT, Finance, BPO and IT industries
4. ECE or EE license-holder preferred
5. Excellent communication and leadership skills

AFTER-SALES MANAGER:

1. At least 5 10 years experience in the installation, repair and maintenance of power products (UPS, TVSS, Rectifiers, Inverters, Batteries and Genset)
2. Extensive experience in managing all aspects of after-sales operations
3. Licensed ECE highly preferred
4. Excellent people-management skills with experience in managing teams of at least 20 people
5. Knowledge and experience in implementing process improvement and quality programs

MARKETING COORDINATOR

1. Graduate of a four-year course in Marketing
2. At least 5 years experience in events organizing, market research, client management, product placement pricing
3. Excellent organizational skills
4. Excellent written and oral communication skills
5. Excellent networking skills

HR ASSISTANT

1. With 1 2 years experience in an HR position
2. Graduate of a 4-yr tertiary course
3. Excellent people-skills
4. Detail-oriented
5. Very good written and oral communication skills
6. Needs minimal supervision

Suitable candidates will be offered very competitive remuneration and incentives package pegged above industry standards. Interested parties may email their application letters and resumes to pamatec_recruitment@hotmail.com or mail to PO Box 1502 Makati Central Post Office

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EURO-PACIFIC LINK INT'L. CORP.

is in need of the following

MARKETING ASSISTANTS

We are in search of dynamic individuals, who will compose a team that will spear-head the creation & implementation of our company's marketing plans. Must have 6 months experience, pleasing personality, & excellent communication skills. Open to Business, Marketing, Advertising & Mass Communication graduates.

HR, ACCOUNTING, PURCHASING ASSISTANTS

Must be female, single, computer literate, with at least 6 months related experience in the position applied for.

SALES LADIES/PROMODISERS

M/F, single, with pleasing personality, not over 25 years old and with at least 6 months experience. Open to residents of Metro Manila, Laguna and Cavite.

Please apply in person or in writing, together with your resume, 2X2 picture, TOR & COE:

199 ERMIN GARCIA ST., CUBAO, Q.C.
E-mail Address: eplic_hrd@yahoo.com.ph
(Tel.911-00-33/34)

EQUIPMENT MANAGER

Must be registered ME, not more than 50 years old, at least 10 years work experience in heavy equipment maintenance of which the last 3 years must be an Equipment Manager or its equivalent. Well organized and must be computer literate.

SALES ENGINEERS

Engineering graduate, 25-45 years old, male. Preferably with experience in selling heavy equipments (machine & parts) to local gov't units & private contractors. Well organized, team player and with excellent communication skills. Computer literate.

Send resumé with credentials and picture to:

Box # KA-045-07 DW
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
#636 TM Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila

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5 STAR AUTOMOTIVE
SERVICE CENTER need:

INSURANCE SOLICITOR/ ESTIMATOR
PURCHASER/ CANVASSER

☐ aggressive & result oriented
☐ with professional Driver's License
☐ male, 25-35 years old
☐ with pleasing personality, preferably college level

AIMOGO, INC.
61 Pasig Blvd. C5 Road,
Bo. Ilog, Pasig City

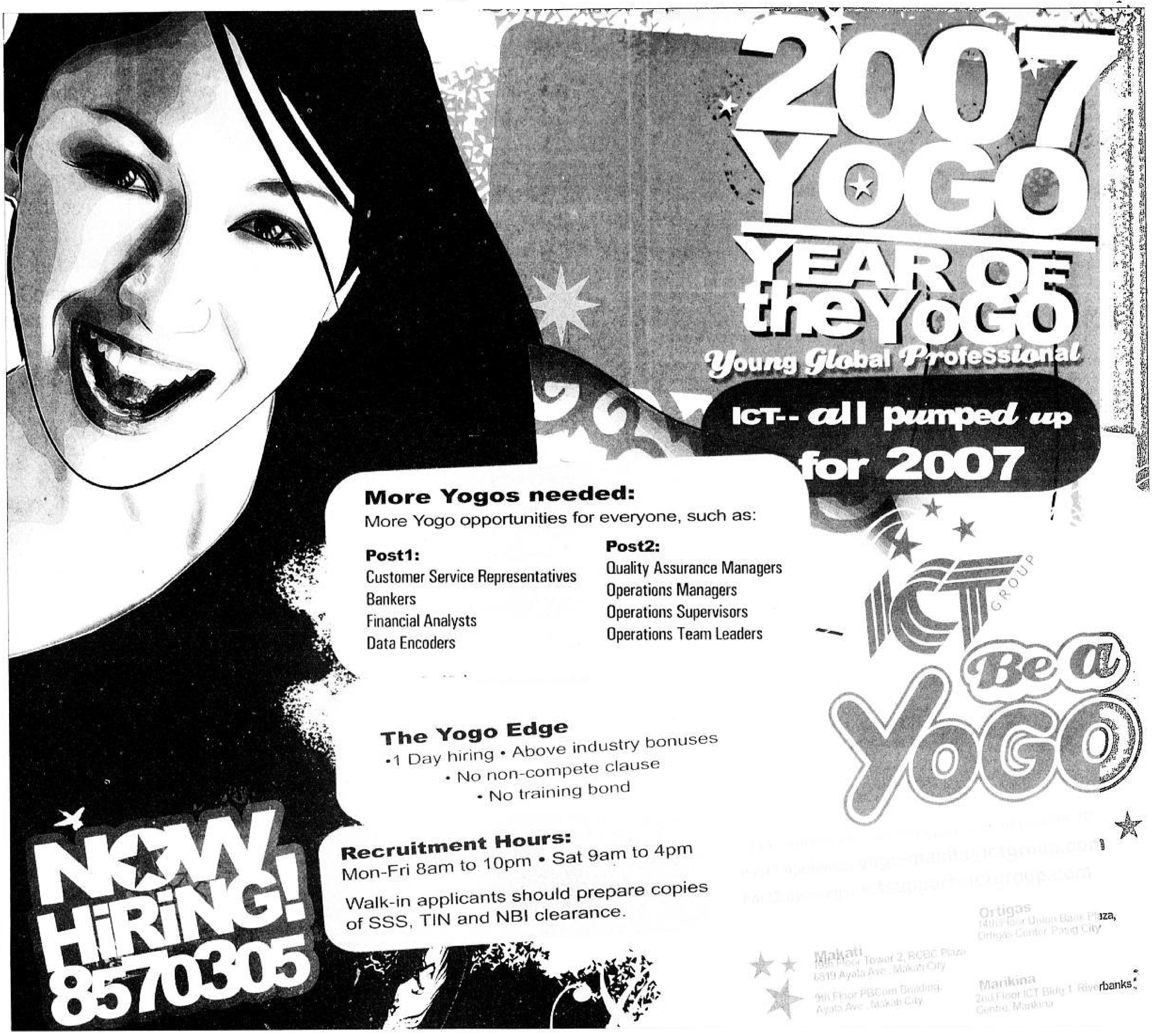
WANTED IMMEDIATELY

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR

- Female
- Graduate of B.S. Accountancy
- With minimum one year relevant experience in General Accounting in a supervisory capacity
- Familiar with Accounting in a computerized environment
- Must be knowledgeable in tax regulation, reportorial and payment requirements of BIR and local government

Please apply personally and bring your latest resumé with 2x2 ID picture to:

Personnel Department
1238 EDSA Balintawak, Quezon City
Tel. No. 362-60-17 / 330-27-59



More Yogos needed:
More Yogo opportunities for everyone, such as:

Post1:
Customer Service Representatives
Bankers
Financial Analysts
Data Encoders

Post2:
Quality Assurance Managers
Operations Managers
Operations Supervisors
Operations Team Leaders

The Yogo Edge
- 1 Day hiring
- Above industry bonuses
- No non-compete clause
- No training bond

Recruitment Hours:
Mon-Fri 8am to 10pm • Sat 9am to 4pm

Walk-in applicants should prepare copies of SSS, TIN and NBI clearance.

Ortigas
14th Floor Union Bank Plaza,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Makati
19th Floor Tower 2, RCBC Plaza
6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City

9th Floor PBCom Building,
Ayala Ave., Makati City

Marikina
2nd Floor ICT Bldg 1 Riverbanks
Centre, Marikina

OSPITAL NG MAKATI
is now accepting applicants for 4 years residency Training in ENT-HNS.
Pls. call 882-6316 loc. 215/309 or 0920-9543395

JOB Market COMPACT

Get exposure in JobMarket twice every week.

Sundays in Inquirer JobMarket and Wednesday in JobMarket Compact.

A well-known publishing company is in need of a

GENERAL MANAGER

Career Objective:
- Leads, directs and controls the company's entire operations. Oversees the company's strategic directions, execution and implementation of its plans, programs and operational policies, ensuring continued growth and profitability.

Specifications:
- Candidate must possess a Bachelor's Degree in Business / Management, Mass Communication, Advertising or its equivalent; preferably with a Master's Degree
- Must have at least 5 years solid managerial experience in handling overall operations of a publishing or media company.
- Possesses strong background in Advertising, Marketing and Business Development.

A high compensation, incentive and benefits package awaits the successful candidate. Interested applicants are requested to send their comprehensive resumé to:

Human Resources Department
P.O. Box 688 Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City 1135
Or Email: dynamics_gm@yahoo.com

A Philippine based company formed in 2005, engaged in importation, marketing and distribution of food and herbal supplements is looking for a:

OPERATION SUPERVISOR

Responsibilities:

Applicants must have strong corporate and analytical skills to handle day to day operations, dealing with employees, IT, accounting, banking systems, planning and organizing quarterly projects.

Requirements:

Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree In Business Studies/Administration/Management, Economics, Sales & Marketing, Finance/Accountancy/Banking, Commerce, Others or equivalent.
Required language(s): English, Filipino
Preferred language(s): Chinese, Bahasa Indonesia
Applicants must be willing to work in Pasig City.
Applicants should be Filipino citizens or hold relevant residence status.
Preferably 5 yrs & up experienced employees.
Full-Time positions available.

Generous compensation awaits those who will qualify for the said positions.

Qualified candidates are invited to send their comprehensive resume to resources2006@yahoo.com or may apply online.

We will only respond to suitable candidates.

GEF
UNDP

Philippine Efficient Lighting Market Transformation Program

The PELMAT Project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and implemented by the Department of Energy (DOE) is in search of qualified candidates for the post of **Task Specialist for Policy and Environmental Management** to be based at the DOE Office in Taguig City

The PELMATP is intended to address the barriers to widespread utilization of energy efficient lighting (EEL) systems in the Philippines.

Policy and Environmental Management Specialist Initial duration of employment is one (1) year, but may be extended based on performance; directly supervised by Project Director.

Duties and Responsibilities

The **Policy and Environmental Management Specialist** shall be responsible in providing technical inputs, as well as administrative, to the PMO on various activities of the project specifically on the aspects of policies and environmental management. He/she will coordinate logistics, monitor the conduct of the activities according to specified/agreed timetable, evaluate the outputs and outcomes of the activities, and provide recommendations to address the activity level for the following components of PELMATP:

- EEL Policies, Standards and Guidelines Enhancement Program (Component 1) and
- EEL Systems Waste Management Assistance Program (Component 5).

He/she shall assist the Project Manager in formulating strategies towards the institutionalization and long-term sustainability of the above-mentioned PELMATP Project components. He/she shall also be responsible for ensuring adherence to the prescribed management criteria (e.g., approved terms of reference, contractual obligations, quality control, etc) is followed in the execution of the activities under the above-cited project components. He/she will also be responsible in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of these activities according to prescribed procedures. Specific activities include the following:

- Regular reporting to Project Manager on the status of project activities vis-à-vis target outputs;
- Synthesis of the activities and outputs of consultants and subcontractors involved in the said Project Components;
- Provision of assistance in management of project risks;
- Provision of technical inputs during the conduct of annual advisory group meetings and the quarterly TWG meetings and in the preparation of quarterly financial/project progress reports; and,
- Provision of technical inputs in the preparation of annual project report/project implementation review (APR/PIR) reports and others as required by the UNDP.

The Specialist will also undertake various administrative activities that may be deemed necessary in the expedient performance of his/her duties and responsibilities under the PELMATP Project.

Qualification and Experience

- Bachelor's Degree in engineering, public administration, business management, environmental science and economics, preferably with Master's Degree of the same or any other relevant field.
- Minimum 5 years experience in energy policy making and planning (including environmental management) and energy efficient technologies, particularly efficient lighting systems;
- Proven track record in project management such as in meeting deadlines, timely submission of acceptable deliverables, etc.;
- Excellent English communication skills, both written and verbal;
- With good appreciation of and strong links with relevant sectors in the lighting industry; and
- With satisfactory skills on the use of office software packages such as MS Word, Excel and Power Point.

All application letters and comprehensive resumes should reach our office on or before February 5, 2007. Address applications to the PELMATP Project, Human Resource Department, Department of Energy, Energy Center, Meritt Road, Taguig, Metro Manila.

This advertisement shall remain posted in www.doe.gov.ph until February 5, 2007.

URGENTLY NEEDED

FEMALE ACCOUNTANT (CPA)

Qualifications:
- With 3 to 5 years experience in Financing Institution
- Not more than 35 years of age

Interested applicants are requested to submit their resumé with 2x2 picture addressed to:

The President
Unit 95, 9th Floor, The Columbia Tower
Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City

REMPCO

A. CI/FIELD COLLECTOR

- at least college level
- male
- 21 to 35 years old
- with own motorcycle
- with experience in credit and collection work

Please apply in person and bring updated resume and 2x2 picture to:

Nitz SP Ilowa
G/F SJS Building, Casino Street
Palanan, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 887-4025; 845-0350

JOB Market

Inquire about the JobMarket package at 897-8808 loc 514.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT Nº: FAOPH 07-001

Issued on: 28 January 2007
Deadline For Application: 13 February 2007

POSITION TITLE:	Programme Clerk	GRADE LEVEL:	G4
		DUTY STATION:	FAO Representation Philippines
ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT:	FAO PH	DURATION:	Fixed-term: 1 year with possible extension

1. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the direct supervision and technical guidance of the Assistant FAO Representative (Programme) and Programme Assistant, the incumbent will collect information, maintain records and prepare documentation and correspondence pertaining to programme activities. In particular, she/he will:

- Collect data and other information on agricultural development and/or related activities in the country;
- Maintain, log, file and update records in prescribed format for subsequent use;
- Process the information and data in accordance with instructions received, making necessary abstracts and computations;
- Maintain and keep current registers and control plans on status of project at the formulation, implementation and operational stages;
- Prepare background material, working papers and tables for briefing and review sessions or meetings;
- Contribute to the monitoring of ongoing projects, with particular reference to budget and workplans;
- Draft correspondence and carry out other specific operational tasks for programme/project implementation as requested;
- Perform other related duties as required.

2. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Education	: Bachelor's degree in field related to programme administration, agriculture, forestry, fishery and rural development
Knowledge and skills	: Typing abilities (35 wpm) and knowledge of modern office procedures. Ability to use word processing equipment and other standard office software such as Excel. Ability to maintain records and databases.
Experience	: Four years of office experience, including record keeping and processing of information.
Languages	: Good working knowledge (level C) of English

3. WORK RELATIONSHIPS

Frequent internal and external contacts to exchange information

4. APPLICATION OF GUIDELINES

Appropriate manual or issuances requiring some interpretation

5. SUPERVISION EXERCISED AND GUIDANCE GIVEN

May give instructions to lower-level staff

Only applications accompanied by filled FAO Personal History Form (http://www.fao.org/va/adm11e.dot) and received at the following postal/E-mail address or by fax on or before 13 February 2007, will be accepted.

FAO Representation in the Philippines
29th Floor, Yuchengco Tower
RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue
Makati City
Fax: (63-2) 9010361 / 9010362

E-Mail: FAO-PH@fao.org (Indicate "Application (Programme Clerk)" in Subject

Only short listed applicants will be acknowledged.

URGENT

RECEPTIONIST

Qualifications: a graduate of a 4-yr course; with excellent communication skills; high level of customer service and hospitality; with leadership and interpersonal skills; analytical; professionally matured; with sense of urgency; Proficient in all MS office applications; must have at least 1 year experience as a receptionist.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND PERSONNEL OFFICER

(position available in June 2007)

Qualifications: a graduate of a business or psychology course; knowledge in all areas of HRD and administrative functions; with strong organizational leadership and decision making skills; with experience in handling and applying company policies and regulations; ability to work well under pressure; flexible, resourceful and team player, proficient knowledge in government procedurals; can assist in a systematic accounting system; Proficient in all MS office applications; must have at least 2 years experience as personnel and admin staff.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST

Qualifications: a graduate of Computer Science or Computer Engineering; certified Microsoft Systems Administrator, with knowledge in Windows 2003, Exchange 2003, systems management server, VOip and video conferencing implementations, Network support, cabling, infrastructure maintenance, trouble shooting, server and system administration, configuration, installations and back up; with good communication and interpersonal skills; can work under pressure; and highly motivated.

Interested applicants may mail their resumé and transcript of records to P.O. Box 13765, Ortigas Center Post Office on or before February 20, 2007. The Company offers competitive salary and benefits package.

NON-LIFE INSURANCE AGENTS WE WANT YOU!!!

If you're apt for the challenges then JOIN us, we guarantee high commission, personalized service, timely settlement of claims and other benefits.

Call now at **524-1886 to 89** local nos. 108 and 118
(Marketing Department)

GRAPHIC DESIGNER/INDUSTRIAL DESIGNER

Male or Female, not more than 30 years old. Graduate of any degree level design course with experience of 3 Dimensional Design & Generation of high quality renderings. A team player, can work under pressure and goes the extra distance to meet the deadline.

Pls. send resumé with photo and sample of 3D rendering to **simon_p_hk@yahoo.com**

UNDP

The Project on Enabling Activity for the Preparation of the Second National Communication to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and implemented by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is in search of qualified candidates for the posts of **Technical Assistants and Administrative / Finance Officer** to be based at the DENR Office in Quezon City.

Technical Assistants (2) – Initial duration of employment is one (1) year, but may be extended based on performance; directly supervised by Project Manager.

Duties and Responsibilities:

General Responsibility

The technical assistants shall assist the project director / project manager in the day-to-day operations of the project.

Specific Responsibilities

1. Assists the project manager in the timely implementation of the project activities as scheduled in the workplan
2. Prepares a detailed workplan for the project and draft terms of reference (TOR) for the subcontracts
3. Compiles the scope and content of the overall Second National Communication (SNC) report and relevant sections in consultation with Project Director and Manager
4. Prepares periodic progress reports of the project
5. Liaises / collaborates with the relevant ministries, national and international research institutes, NGOs, and other relevant institutions in gathering and dissemination of relevant information
6. Identifies and ensures synergy of the SNC with other relevant ongoing / new projects
7. Coordinates with the team on Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventory and oversees and facilitates the conduct of the national GHG inventory
8. In consultation with the Project Manager, decides on approaches (not concluded in the stocktaking phase) to be used, if necessary
9. Organizes the scheduled consultations / workshops and ensure their success
10. Provides all the necessary assistance needed by the project director / manager for the presentation of the accomplishments of the project to the Inter-Agency Committee on Climate Change (IACCC)

Qualifications :

1. University graduate in engineering, natural or environmental sciences, or related fields
2. Must have at least 3 years experience on related field or environmental management
3. Must have affinity to work as trainer and experience in the provision of training and conduct of workshop
4. Must possess special skills on creativity, foresighted thinking and pro-active attitude
5. Capacity to work independently and within a team
6. Confidence in communication, including communication with external partners
7. Proficiency in the use of various software applications (MS Word, MS Powerpoint, Excel, etc.)
8. Previous experience working with government agencies, NGOs and industries in the Philippines, in implementing projects that deal with climate change or environmental management, would be an advantage

Administrative / Finance Officer - Initial duration of employment is one (1) year, but may be extended based on performance; directly supervised by Project Director / Manager.

Duties and Responsibilities:

Specific Responsibilities

1. Installs the project's financial systems and procedures, in accordance with UNDP's existing guidelines on national execution
2. Orients project staff on the use of the project's financial systems and procedures
3. Assists in the conduct of expenditures and ensures efficient management of the resources provided for the project
4. Supervises the proper recording of the project's financial transactions and submit a regular report on the project's financial status
5. Certifies as to the correctness of journals, vouchers, bills, statements of account, trial balance, budget estimates and other financial statements and records
6. Consolidates and prepares annual and quarterly budgets and workplans, including the necessary budget revisions
7. Establishes project account and ensures appropriateness and proper record keeping of transactions
8. Prepares updated reports or disbursements made by the project and advise the Project Director / Manager on the overall financial status of the project

Qualifications

1. Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Business Administration, Economics, or other related fields
2. Must have at least 3 years professional experience in related financial management services
3. Must have very good writing skills in preparing report and business communications
4. Proficiency in use of various software applications (MS Word, MS Project, Excel, etc.)
5. Experience in government-executed project procedures, an advantage

The United Nations strongly encourages applications from qualified women candidates.

While the project offers an equal employment opportunity, only Filipino professionals are invited for these specific posts.

All application letters and comprehensive resumes should reach our office on or before 8 February 2007. Address applications to the Development Support Services Center, United Nations Development Programme, 30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue 1226 Makati City (via courier) or P.O. Box 7285 Domestic Airport Post Office Lock Box 1300 Domestic Road, Pasay City (via airmail), tel. no. (63 2) 901 0100.

This advertisement shall remain posted in www.undp.org.ph until 8 February 2007.

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JOB Market Find A Career In Here.

Israeli placement agencies not authorized to hire Filipinos for Spain

THE PHILIPPINE Overseas Labor Office (Polo) in Tel-Aviv, Israel has issued an advisory against Israel-based manpower agencies recruiting Filipinos for jobs in Spain.

In a report to Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion, Labor Attaché to Israel Teresita R. Manzala said that the Spanish government has not authorized any placement agency outside the Philippines to recruit Filipino workers for jobs in Spain.

Only Philippine-based licensed recruitment agencies are allowed to deploy overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) to Spain under the "Proyecto Piloto" which is an experimental hiring of Filipino healthcare professionals and skilled workers, Manzala stressed.

She added that under the agreement, the point of hiring and issuance of entry visas as well as work permits are exclusively in the Philippines.

In a consultative meeting held in Jerusalem last Jan. 3, Consul-General Ramon Ansoian of the Embassy of Spain reiterated this arrangement. Consul-General Gilberto G.B. Asuque and Manzala represented the Philippine Embassy in Israel in the meeting.

Presently, only three Philippine manpower agencies have been pre-qualified by POEA to participate in the recruitment and deployment of OFWs to Spain. These are Sun-Ace International Management Services, Ed-Fro-Bon Manpower Services, and Dahlzen International Services. No job orders have come from employers in Spain except those from Servicio De Prevencion De Riegos Grupo Los Nogales under the Proyecto Piloto.

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URGENT JOB VACANCIES

The ETDE –PAMATEC Consortium, with National Power Corporation as implementing agency, is implementing the French-funded Philippine Rural Electrification Services (PRES) Project, which aims to provide basic electricity services in 128 unenergized barangays in Masbate. The project supports the total barangay electrification program of the Philippine government by 2008. PAMATEC is in urgent need of highly qualified individuals to occupy the following positions:

Field Implementation Manager (Masbate-based)

Duties and Responsibilities:

Provide leadership for overall efficient and effective field implementation of rural electrification activities in Masbate; ensure all mini-grid and PV installations meet accepted NPC, DOE and ETDE guidelines, customer expectations and other domestic regulations; assign work, set completion dates, review work, and manage performance in accordance with organizational policies, procedures, and performance management processes, provide technical and managerial support to work plan development and implementation; ensure proper integration of other program components into the technical side of the project; supervise and coordinate the work of area managers and field supervisors.

Qualifications:

1. At least 5 years experience in a supervisory or managerial position in a similar capacity; experience in foreign-funded energy projects a distinct advantage
2. Strong background in all facets of rural energy development, particularly in the use of PV for small and medium scale end-use applications and mini-grid systems using diesel gensets.
3. Strong understanding of the challenges of community development.
4. Demonstrated ability to organize, direct, and perform high level supervisory duties in a manner conducive to full performance and high morale.
5. Demonstrated ability to identify problems within the team and to develop feasible solutions.
6. Functional knowledge of first aid and internationally accepted HSSE practices.
7. A licensed engineer or a graduate of related course or possessing equivalent experience requirements.

Communications Specialist

Duties and Responsibilities:

Recommend appropriate strategies and policies for the project's public relations program; draft press releases, prepare film or visual presentations for a wide variety of readers and viewers, respectively; develop and maintain contacts in media.

Qualifications:

1. A college degree combined with two to three years experience in public relations (including internships);
2. Excellent communication skills and able to maintain good interpersonal relationships:
3. Ability to breathe new life into old concepts
4. Basic knowledge of the Philippine energy sector is an advantage but not a requirement.
5. Ability to transform complex information into simple, easy to understand language and visuals.

Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist

Duties and Responsibilities:

Develop the overall framework for project M&E in accordance to the project document M&E plan; design and implement a system to identify, analyze, document and disseminate lessons learned; organize and provide training in M&E for project and implementing partner staff, local organizations and primary stakeholders in order to develop local M&E capacity.

Qualifications:

Proven experience with the logical framework approach and other strategic planning approaches including:

- M&E methods and approaches (including quantitative, qualitative and participatory);
- Planning, design and implementation of M&E systems;
- Strong leadership qualities, personnel and team management (including mediation and conflict resolution);
- Training in M&E development and implementation and/or facilitating learning-oriented analysis sessions of M&E data with multiple stakeholders

Area Managers (Masbate-based)

Duties and Responsibilities:

Responsible for planning, scheduling and implementing field activities for at least forty barangays; organize and allocate resources; monitor field activities on a daily basis; report issues and recommend solutions; submit technical and expense reports.

Qualifications:

1. Five years experience in field implementation of similar projects
2. Experience in community development and an appreciation of the challenges it entails:
3. College degree or licensed engineer.
4. Driver's license is an advantage

Field Supervisors (Masbate-based)

Duties and Responsibilities.

Directly responsible for planning, directing and implementing the field activities of a number of barangays under the supervision of the area manager, organize and allocate resources; monitor field activities on a daily basis; report issues and recommend solutions, submit technical and expense reports.

Qualifications:

1. Three years experience in field implementation of similar projects
2. Experience in community development and an appreciation of the challenges it entails;
3. College degree or licensed engineer
4. Driver's license is an advantage

Health, Safety, Security and Environment (HSSE) Officer

Duties and Responsibilities:

Prepare a site-specific HSSE Plan and publish Site Safety and Security Plan summary as required; identify and cause correction of occupational safety and security hazards; continuously monitor workers for exposure to HSSE hazardous conditions; alter, suspend, evacuate or terminate activities that may pose imminent safety or security danger to the workers; take appropriate action to mitigate or eliminate unsafe condition, operation, or hazard; provide training and HSSE information; perform assessment of engineering controls; document safe/unsafe/secure/dangerous acts, corrective actions taken on the scene, accidents or injuries, and ways to improve safety and security on future incidents.

Qualifications:

1. Trained in the applicable laws or inspection procedures through some combination of classroom and on-the-job training; possess awards or degrees in programs related to occupational safety, health or security including 1-year certificates, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, and graduate degrees
2. At least 5 years experience as a safety and security professional
3. Must possess strong personality and good leadership traits
4. Driver's license

Office Manager (Masbate)

Duties and Responsibilities.

Supervise the activities performed in all work units within the field office, including office management, implementation of procedures, records management, collection and reporting of statistics, and accounting functions; if necessary, prepare manuals and other materials describing procedures and standards; prepare reports as required by the Support Services Manager and the project; regularly monitor the accuracy, completeness, and timeliness of reports emanating from the field office; assists in the preparation and maintenance of the office budget; provide administrative support to the field managers and staff; coordinate local events and presentations.

Qualifications:

1. Must have a very strong network of local contacts
2. At least 5 years experience in a supervisory or managerial position in a similar capacity; experience in foreign-funded projects a distinct advantage;
3. Demonstrated ability to organize, direct, and perform high level supervisory duties in a manner conducive to full performance and high morale.
4. Demonstrated ability to identify problems within an office and to develop feasible solutions.

HR/Administrative Assistant (Masbate)

Duties and Responsibilities:

Assists in recruitment and other HR-related activities; responsible for information and communication dissemination of the field office; plan and schedule meetings and appointments; organize and maintain paper and electronic files; conduct research; and disseminate information by using the telephone, mail services, Web sites, and e-mail; handle travel and guest arrangements

Qualifications

1. At least a college graduate with basic office skills
2. Extensive knowledge of software applications, such as word processing, spreadsheets, and database management;
3. Proficient in keyboarding and good at spelling, punctuation, grammar, and oral communication.
4. Good customer service and interpersonal skills;
5. Requires discretion, good judgment, organizational or management ability, initiative.

Documentation and Project Scheduler

Duties and Responsibilities:

Ensures that reports emanating from headquarters and the field office strictly conform to standard formats and requirements; responsible for ensuring that reports are submitted on time and that these reach their intended readers; responsible for updating the project schedule on a regular basis; coordinating with the different departments to ensure that the project schedule is accurate and up-to-date; prepares minutes of meetings.

Qualifications:

1. At least four years related experience
2. Highly proficient in MS Project
3. Good understanding of the complex nature of projects
4. College graduate

Field Enumerators

Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Socio-economic survey- Collect survey data and relevant information from the sample households and barangay captains in unelectrified areas in Masbate, accomplish standard survey questionnaires to statistically ascertain the energy consumption patterns and capacity to pay of households, among others, edit questionnaires in the field for errors and inconsistencies, report and submit to supervisor all completed questionnaires for re-editing.
2. Technical Survey- Conduct survey to determine the technical design requirements of mini-grid and PV systems; produce location maps (distribution lines and powerhouse) using GPS

Qualifications:

A. Socio -economic Survey
   1. At least 5 years experience in field enumeration, prior experience in the conduct of energy surveys is an advantage
   2. Preferably with knowledge on rural electrification.
   3. Ability to speak and understand Masbateno dialect an advantage.

B. Technical survey
   1. Electrical Engineering graduate
   2. Proficient in the use of the GPS Tracking System
   3. Experience in enumeration is an advantage

Community Organizing Coordinators (Masbate-based)

Duties and Responsibilities:

Provide oversight to community organizing activities; disseminate CO plans and programs to the area level, plan, formulate standards, monitor and evaluate the implementation of community development strategies and activities, integrate the community organizing plans and activities with the installation schedules of the mini-grid and PV systems.

Qualifications:

1. College degree or its equivalent work experience (i.e. graduate of BS Social Work, Community Development or any course that promotes community development).
2. Experience in a similar project is an advantage.

Community Training Specialist

Duties and Responsibilities:

Responsible for developing the training program needed in community organization and mobilization; identify qualified trainors and on occasion, conduct the training him/herself.

Qualifications:

1. Three years experience in training, training needs analysis and design, preparation of materials;
2. College Degree

Logistics Coordinator

Duties and Responsibilities:

Responsible for a range of business tasks to support the smooth and efficient operation of supply chain processes and typical work activities including monitoring the quality, cost and efficiency of the movement and storage of goods, coordinating and controlling the order cycle and associated information systems, analyzing data to monitor performance and plan improvements; allocating and managing staff resources according to changing needs; liaising and negotiating with customers and suppliers; analyzing logistical problems and producing new solutions, provide oversight to the warehouse supervisor and transportation and handling supervisor; accountable for asset tracking/management.

Qualifications:

1. At least three years experience in a similar position,
2. Experience in transport and warehouse management, materials planning and customer service are an advantage
3. An awareness of and strategic response to external influences, such as legislation, is vital.
4. Knowledge of the geography of Masbate and neighboring provinces, an advantage.
5. A graduate of any relevant engineering course

Purchasing Officer

Duties and Responsibilities:

Management of purchasing information and systems, and purchasing services; ensure compliance to procedures contained in the project management manual, define outsourcing strategy/development management, negotiating and administration of purchasing contracts, define procedure for supplier accreditation and service level management, effectively manage suppliers and relationships, service level agreements, if any

Qualifications:

1. At least three years related experience
2. Ability to motivate and manage a team,
3. Excellent forward-planning, numerical and analytical skills;
4. A graduate of any relevant engineering course

Genset Distribution Line Specialist

Duties and Responsibilities:

Establish documents for the design and engineering work for the mini-grid network; supervise and coordinate the integration of design engineering work; define technical training requirements and conduct appropriate training as needed; provide oversight to field inspections, testing, provide technical support in the installation, commissioning and operation of the mini-grid networks.

Qualifications:

1. At least five years experience in the design, installation, commissioning and operation of gensets and mini-grid networks;
2. Licensed Electrical/Mechanical Engineer

Design Engineers

Duties and Responsibilities:

Responsible for the design documentation, preparation of materials and engineering design drawings for mini-grid network and PV systems (AutoCAD); provide first level technical and engineering support for PV and diesel mini-grid network installation and commissioning.

Qualifications:

1. At least two years related experience
2. Functional knowledge of AutoCAD Software
3. Licensed Electrical/Mechanical Engineer

Civil Works Specialist

Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Responsible for ensuring the integrity of the design, construction and maintenance of the fixed structure requirements of the mini-grid systems
2. Provide technical support to the design engineering team

Qualifications:

1. At least five years related experience
2. Civil Engineering graduate

System Administrator

Duties and Responsibilities

Responsible for installing, supporting, and maintaining servers or other computer systems, and planning for and responding to service outages and other problems;scripting or light programming; project management for systems-related projects; supervising or training computer operators; the equivalent of a handyman for computer problems beyond the knowledge of technical support staff.

Qualifications:

1. At least three years and current experience as a Systems Administrator of a medium- sized network of servers, desktop systems and communications devices and protocols using current technologies
2. Demonstrated knowledge of Windows server, desktop products, setting up of remote access for servers;
3. Demonstrated ability to support networked printers and photocopiers;
4. Ability to negotiate hardware/software service and technical support contracts with vendors;
5. Supervising, coaching, and mentoring of network services assistant position;
6. Proficient in 2007 MS Office, Visual Basic, MS Access, SQL Server, MS Exchange Server, Front Page;
7. Diploma in Computer Science, Management Information Systems or Business Administration, supplemented with one or more courses in current technology. Microsoft Certified for Systems Administration

Computer Software Engineers, Systems Software

Duties and Responsibilities:

Responsible for writing, modifying, and debugging software for client applications, use source debuggers and visual development environments; write codes to create single-threaded or user interface event driven applications, either stand-alone and those which access servers or services; test and document software for client applications.

Qualifications:

1. At least 4 years and current experience as a Programmer for medium-sized projects using the latest technologies;
2. Proficient in he following 2007 MS Office, Visual Basic, MS Access, SQL Server, MS Exchange Server, Front Page;
3. Diploma in Computer Science, Management Information Systems or Business Administration, supplemented with one or more courses in current technology. Microsoft Certified Professional Developer or Solutions Developer.

Project Accountant- Manila Office

Duties and Responsibilities:

Check and analyze petty cash disbursement vouchers of PRES and prepare summary report prior to check preparation; reconcile various expenditure reports to source documents and ascertain proper charging to cost centers; summarize expenditure reports per cost center on a monthly basis; prepare monthly bank reconciliation PRES bank accounts; prepare weekly and monthly inventory reports; prepare routine journal entries and posts financial transactions; prepare management reports on costing, budgeting, finance and controls.

Qualifications:

1. Good communication skills
2. At least 5 years experience in the field
3. Accounting graduate
4. Assertive, highly motivated and can handle task with minimum supervision
5. Willing to work overtime and do fieldwork

Junior Project Accountant (Masbate Office)

Roles and Responsibilities

Facilitate the request for check processing of various disbursements: prepare daily and monthly cash position reports, prepare daily and monthly expense reports; handle cash and cash related transactions, issues receipts, records and types money lists, and balances cash fund, control and maintain records of project equipment, supplies, and inventories; distribute, review, calculate, and process payroll time sheets and employment documents.

Qualifications:

1. Good communication skills
2. At least 3 years experience in the field
3. Accounting graduate
4. Assertive, highly motivated and can handle task with minimum supervision
5. Willing to work overtime and do fieldwork

Unless otherwise specified, all applicants for the above positions must possess the following qualifications:

1. Excellent written and oral communication skills
2. Excellent ability to analyze diverse and complex parameters
3. Demonstrated capability to work under pressure as a team member in a highly technical and collaborative professional environment.
4. Strong interpersonal skills, especially in dealing with persons from diverse backgrounds.
5. Ability to work with minimum supervision.
6. Proficient in Windows-based computer applications
7. Willing to travel to Masbate job sites, the frequency depending on the position

All interested candidates may submit their comprehensive resume with recent ID photo to:

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Or email to: pres_pamatec@yahoo.com.ph on or before Sunday, February 11, 2007.

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Female, 35 years and above with Bachelor's Degree in Human Resource Management. 5 plus years experience in administration and human resources management in a position of authority. Ability to define and deliver high quality human resource programs and overall office administration processes. Excellent leadership and strategic vision.

Email resumé with photo to **simon_p_hk@yahoo.com**

SALES REPRESENTATIVES:

- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
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- Willing to work graveyard shifts
- Background in sales, information technology and call center experience is an advantage

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- Aggressive, analytical, and assertive
- Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply

OFFICE STAFF

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Male or Female, 19-27 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year Computer/ Business/ Arts related course
- People-oriented and can work on extended hours
- Can work under pressure without affecting the quality of work
- Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply

MAINTENANCE STAFF

QUALIFICATIONS:

- At least vocational graduate
- Male, 20-35 years old
- Must have an experience in machine troubleshooting

FORKLIFT OPERATOR

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Male, 20-35 years old
- At least high school graduate
- With at least 6 months experience in forklift operation
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QUALIFICATIONS:

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and look for Ms. Julie R. Reyes or Mr. Arby S. Macalawa

ENGLISH INSTRUCTOR

- Female, 20-35 years old, College Graduate
- Excellent communication skills & computer literate
- Teaching or call center experience

Apply personally at **Int'l English Friends Ctr.**
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Tel. # : 892-3394
or send your resumé to
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- Good communication skills and able to establish office procedures and organizational flow chart
- Experience on crew selection processes and with knowledge of human resources management
- Willing to work extra hours including holidays and Saturdays
- Experience in solving crew problems related to shipboard situation
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- Good in administration with organizational skill and can work independently
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Landing the right post does not depend on luck

By Ma. Esther Salcedo-Posadas
Contributor

GETTING A GOOD JOB IS not purely dependent on luck. Much depends on the effort you put in as well as the strategy you employ in landing the right post. In fact, you can even "create your own luck," if you think hard enough.

People get lucky because they prepare for its eventuality. It has often been said that luck is actually a combination of preparation plus opportunity.

I often meet people who are jobless and tell me how difficult it is to find a job. Usually, I try to find out what efforts they have put in. Many are discouraged and lost that they have essentially limited themselves to opportunities that come along their way. If they happen to see a job opening in the classifieds, they would submit their resumé. If a friend mentions an opportunity, they may check it out depending on their mood for that day.

Some people find it hard to take rejection that they walk out at the first sign of it.

The above scenario is actually a passive way of getting a job. If you resort mostly to searching job classifieds, just consider how many people actually employ that tactic. To be more proactive, you need to think of more creative ways in finding opportunity.

Remember that opportunity doesn't necessarily come in the form of a job. Of course, your end goal is a job but there are usually stepping stones that can help you reach the destination faster. For example, if you're eyeing a particular industry where you have no previous job experience, an option would be to get your foot in the door or gain as much experience as you can.

Some people take advantage of internship programs offered by a company.

Others volunteer or take up a course of study related to the job they have in mind. Those who want to join a call center industry would do well to practice their American English. There are schools that offer language training. People who aim to go abroad as nurses usually start out learning care giving or nursing from a local institution.

If further studies are not possible at this point, you may also consider reading good books on your targeted job. A lot can be gained from reading the right books. You can also get a lot of jobhunting tips from various experts. It is also good to gain first-hand accounts on your industry of choice. Talk to your friends who have been there. Interview them and get to know the demands of your dream job.

Read the newspapers for possible leads to job openings. When a company announces that it will start operations in the Philippines, that news item could give you an idea of their forthcoming manpower requirements. Use the Internet and other resources to find out the contact information of such companies. Open your mind to possibilities.

In finding a job, the worst thing you can do is to stay home and to do nothing. If you want to attract opportunity, you have to meet it halfway if not all the way. Don't let your laziness or inertia stop you from finding fulfillment in life. God helps those who help themselves. Pray for light and with faith, walk towards the sun of hope with open arms, ready to receive its abundant blessings.

'My boss insists we work as a team but nobody listen during meetings'

MY BOSS REQUIRES US TO work as a team and insists on frequent meetings which, to me, are a waste of time. I prefer working alone. I can accomplish my work faster and do things better without the hassle of working with a group of people who doesn't care if the needs of their team members are violated. When my boss calls for a meeting, some arrive late, most are unprepared for the meeting, and almost all, including my boss, are glued to their cell phones. If they are not talking to someone on the cell phone, they are texting, or reading text messages. Or, there are private meetings during the meeting. Nobody listens the way they should be listening. I'm so frustrated with this idea of teamwork but it is forced on us as one of the core (aka sacred) values of our company.

Mr. Lone Ranger

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

Josie O. Santamaria

I, too, am greatly disturbed and distracted when people, attending meetings or a training classes, are busy with their cell phones. It's true that teamwork has become a core value of almost all organizations because when people coordinate their efforts and contribute their abilities and skills, better results are achieved. You can see this in sports teams.

However, people don't work as a team simply because they are told to do so.

Teamwork requires a great deal of self-denial: setting aside your own interests and preferences, exerting efforts to see and understand the viewpoint of the other person, committing to a goal that you may not wholeheartedly agree with, coordinating with some team members you may not have positive vibes or may not trust, etc.

Challenges

Agreeing to a common goal and pursuing a common direction, performing agreed on roles, working out an efficient process that every one should follow regardless of individual differences, are challenges to every team member.

We've seen this in movies where a group of talented people are assembled to form a team and given a mission to fulfill. They go through the stages of forming, storming and norming before they can work together as a high-performing and mature team. This is why team building is a regular activity and continuous process undertaken by every group, including and especially for, people at the top of the organization.

Your boss insists on team effort, not solo performance, even by talented members like yourself. Performance assessment includes the important dimension of teamwork. Your chances of career advancement, especially of following the management career path, include your ability to effectively lead a group and to be a contributing member of a team. Working and collaborating with others to achieve common goals on agreed-on dates, etc. are indicative of a high level of emotional intelligence (EI).

Any corporate setting requires that people work together with people. Even if you are given a project to undertake by yourself, you still need to coordinate with peers whose outputs are your inputs, or vice versa.

I agree with your idea of how people in a team should behave during meetings. However, if you are a member of a team, you have no control over the behavior of your boss and your peers. Since you cannot change them, focus instead on changing yourself, starting with your thoughts and feelings and then your behavior. Perhaps if you change your behavior, you might influence others to change as well. However, don't count on this.

Way to change

There are five proactive ways that you can do to bring about a change in your situation:

First. Think positively of teamwork and team effort. See movies where team effort leads to the successful accomplishment of seemingly impossible goals.

Observe basketball teams on the court. Sell and buy the idea of teamwork.

Second. See the members of your team as people, like you, with needs, values and interests, and preferences which are different from one another. As such, they are pursuing their own agenda and are meeting them through the use of their cell phones. Your boss tolerates it; his own role modeling gives it a stamp of approval.

If you are self-confident, assertive and have a positive relationship with your boss, you can suggest to him or her the benefits of a focused meeting: better quality listening, discussion and decisions. Developing a positive relationship with your boss requires that you follow his or her instructions and directions, not resist them or criticize his or her leadership style.

Third. Be a positive role model of a good team player. Come on time for meetings, and come prepared; listen attentively; actively participate in the discussion, etc. Don't bring your cell phone with you; don't even put it in front of you.

Fourth. Give positive feedback to those who listen and participate during meetings. You can affirm people by positive reinforcement of their positive behaviors. For example: "I like the way you built on the idea of Tom and amplified it"; "Thank you for listening to me."

Fifth. Develop a positive relationship with your fellow team members so that they will be open to your suggestions on ways and means of improving participation in meetings and coordination on projects. Listen and be open to their ideas as well.

The above are some ways you can exercise personal leadership by influencing people to behave in positive ways. God bless you.

(The author has 24 years of experience us a management, OD and training consultant and has designed many training programs for people in various companies in the Philippines and in Asia. She is the president of Career System.)

Gospel: Luke 4: 21-30

And all spoke highly of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth.

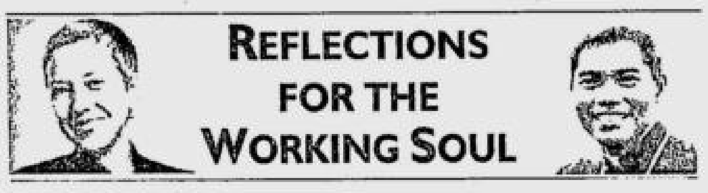
Words vs works

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

THE PICTURE OF THE CROWDS AMAZED AT THE "GRAcious words that came from his (Jesus) mouth" triggers a discussion in my mind regarding words versus works. It reminds me of people who are great "talkers" but are "non-doers" and also those who are tremendous achievers but are simply quiet about their deeds. These "silent workers" could "talk" better through their action than those who are as noisy as a chatterbox but with no deeds to show. And if and when the former would utter words from their lips, people would readily lend their eat since their works add credibility to their words. As they say, "Actions speak louder than words."

On the other hand, there are many jobs where talking and being skillful at words are very essential, being the very work itself, like in industries such as marketing, education and training and many others which require a good deal of verbal communication. Yet, even in these professions, mastery of words, language and speech would still be insufficient to guarantee success. The worker's oneness with his work seems to be very important. Thus, one who markets a product for example, must believe in his product and own it so to say, in order to convince people to buy it. Likewise, a teacher, or an educator needs to internalize the values he or she is explaining in order to be effective in his profession.

When a job becomes one with the person doing it, and the worker feels one with his work, believing in its value and appreciating its significance, the worker then would become like Jesus with His words and actions intimately knit in His being, and would exude a pleasant atmosphere for others to enjoy. *(E-mail the author at mfvg@skyinet.net)*


REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

Amazing words

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

GRACIOUS WORDS AMAZE, THAT'S FOR SURE. SINCE long before the time of Jesus, men have been made or unmade by words. Wars have been fought and peace pacts signed using words. In the workplace, words can make or break a person. The wrong word used at a job interview could cost you a prospective job, the right words used in a request could bring you a promotion.

All jobs call for words, even those that employ the deaf-mute. Words being the tool humans use to communicate, it is imperative that we use them as humans ought to, with the intelligence of creatures destined for greater things than vegetating, procreating, moneymaking and warmongering. But words alone—or even a way with them—do not necessarily guarantee you of success or satisfaction at work. Look around you and see who are the "most successful" in their jobs. Are all of them charismatic speakers? And of those successful and charismatic speakers, how many may be satisfied, contented or fulfilled?

Do not lose heart comparing yourself with such successful persons. Among the successful, satisfied, contented and fulfilled persons in your workplace, you may also find "a man of few words." That is because although words may amaze, it is just a beginning. Gracious words attract. Words congruent with actions convince. Words and actions emanating from love transform the world. *(E-mail the author at teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)*

GOOD MORNING!

When one's work is a joy in the heart

IT'S A TIRING YET FULFILLING job. This is what 31-year-old Jolly de Joya says about his work as an operations agent at the Calamba service station of DHL Philippines. De Joya says it gives him the opportunity to learn more and mingle with people, which he describes as the "perks" of the job.

De Joya was an agency recruit who started as an in-house personnel at a DHL customer's warehouse in Calamba City in October 2005. He was in charge of all documents for shipment until DHL got him as a full-time employee in August 2006. And it has become a bigger, more exacting job since then.

"Work's more difficult here at the service station, but I love the challenge. When I was still with our client, all I did was check the documents. The focus was more on paperwork. Here, I have to be very precise and work on a fixed schedule to be able to meet all deliveries. My shift starts at 9 a.m., but I come to work as early as 7:30 a.m. to help sort all packages for deliveries. Everything must be ready before the couriers come in so they can start deliveries at 8 a.m. My work now has to do more with supplies. It is office work, but I'm given the opportunity to try other responsibilities."

De Joya takes his work to heart and even helps in doing the courier's job when deliveries are just too many. And it was during one of those trips when he proved that DHL employees know their values well. "Once, while I was doing my rounds, I saw a wallet on the road. I didn't open it as I was pressed for time. I placed the wallet inside the van, did my deliveries for the day, then turned over the wallet to my supervisor. He was the one who got in touch with the owner. It so happened that the owner is a finance manager in a semiconductor company in Laguna. He came over to the warehouse but I was off-duty. I wasn't after anything, but he left me a reward as a 'thank you' for returning the wallet."

That De Joya opted to return the reward money speaks volumes of his character.

"His 'thank you' was enough. That's why when I happened to be in the vicinity of his office, I returned the money. It's not arrogance; his show of gratitude was enough. Besides, the wallet is his, and it had to be returned to him."

For his exemplary attitude, DHL Express Philippines recognized De Joya's good deed. "It feels good to be recognized for what I did. Although it was an ordinary thing on my part, still, it felt good! I love the culture at DHL.

Everybody helps their peers. When there are some things I can't do alone, my colleagues are more than willing to lend a hand. That's why I come to work early to help sort the deliveries. It's like *bayanihan*."

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2. Review the consistency of ACT intervention plans with CDD principles and with the standards set by the Regional Project Management Team (RPMT).
3. Conduct purposive capability building of ACTs. In coordination with the Regional Training Unit, determine training needs, develop and administer a capability-building plan that includes formal training, team building, coaching, mentoring, task demonstration, peer sharing, tactic session, focused group discussions, and other approaches:
4. Coordinate regional Technical Assistance (TA) provision to ACTs, establish TA delivery systems and procedures, and facilitate timely TA provision to ACT members and field implementers on CO – CD, local governance, participatory development planning, and convergence and institutionalization.
5. Provide policy recommendations to the RPMT and technical assistance to organic staff on implementing CDD interventions and in realizing the department's mandate on community development.
6. Prepare a process monitoring plan, in consultation with other members of the RPMT, and monitor the implementation of the Project's development processes and interventions through report review, field visits, and spot checks.
7. Prepare process documentation reports, consolidate AC monitoring reports, and submit the same to the Regional Project Manager and the NPMO.
8. Facilitate periodic summing-up of ACT field implementation experience. Generate lessons, strategies, and best practices in field implementation, and ensure that these are disseminated and utilized to enhance operations.

Qualification Standards:

1. Graduate of any social development related course, preferably at the masteral level;
2. At least seven (7) years of progressive experience in community organizing and development work, three years of which should be in foreign-assisted projects (FAPs).
3. Demonstrated capability to formulate and execute strategies to propel CDD programs with multiple components such as (i) LGU engagement, (ii) local development planning, (iii) convergence, (iv) community mobilization and social inclusion, and (v) institutional reforms.
4. Excellent grasp of national and region-specific poverty conditions, current anti-poverty initiatives, and different approaches to poverty reduction.
5. Excellent written and oral communication skills in English and Filipino, and in the local language where he/she will be deployed.
6. Highly literate in MS Office applications.

Application Requirements:

a. Application letter indicating where you want to be posted and briefly stating how you meet each of the qualification standards (maximum of 2 pages)
b. Latest CV
c. One writing sample (either field notes or field report, maximum of 5 pages)
d. A list of references (with full contact details) from the last three previous employers

Interested applicants must submit all of the above to: The Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee, DSWD, Constitution Hills, Quezon City, with telephone number 931-8101 loc 217/ 951-71-16 (Fax) or e-mail to bacsec@dswd.gov.ph; dswdbacsec@yahoo.com on or before 9 February 2007

(Sgd.) FLORITA R. VILLAR
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- Graduate of Statistics/Economics/Math/ Engineering or any business related courses
- Has 3 years corporate planning experience on a managerial capacity.
- Knowledgeable in feasibility studies; Computer literate; has good analytical skills and;
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- Graduate of any business related courses, preferably Accountancy
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- Has extensive computer training
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- Has good command of the English and Tagalog languages in noth oral and written form

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- With noteworthy publications.
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College of Engineering

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- With Noteworthy publications.
- Minimum of 5 years experience in teaching and 2 years Administrative or Managerial experience

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College of Arts and Sciences
College of Business Administration
College of Computer Science
College of Computer Engineering

- Graduate of AB/BS Psychology, Computer Engineering, Information Technology, Computer Science, Information Management, ECE, Accountancy, English, Marine Transportation, or Social Sciences, Tourism, Hotel and Restaurant Management
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- Willing to work in Calamba, Laguna

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    - o Understanding of SSL, Proxies and Internet Explorer settings
    - o Understanding of firewalls

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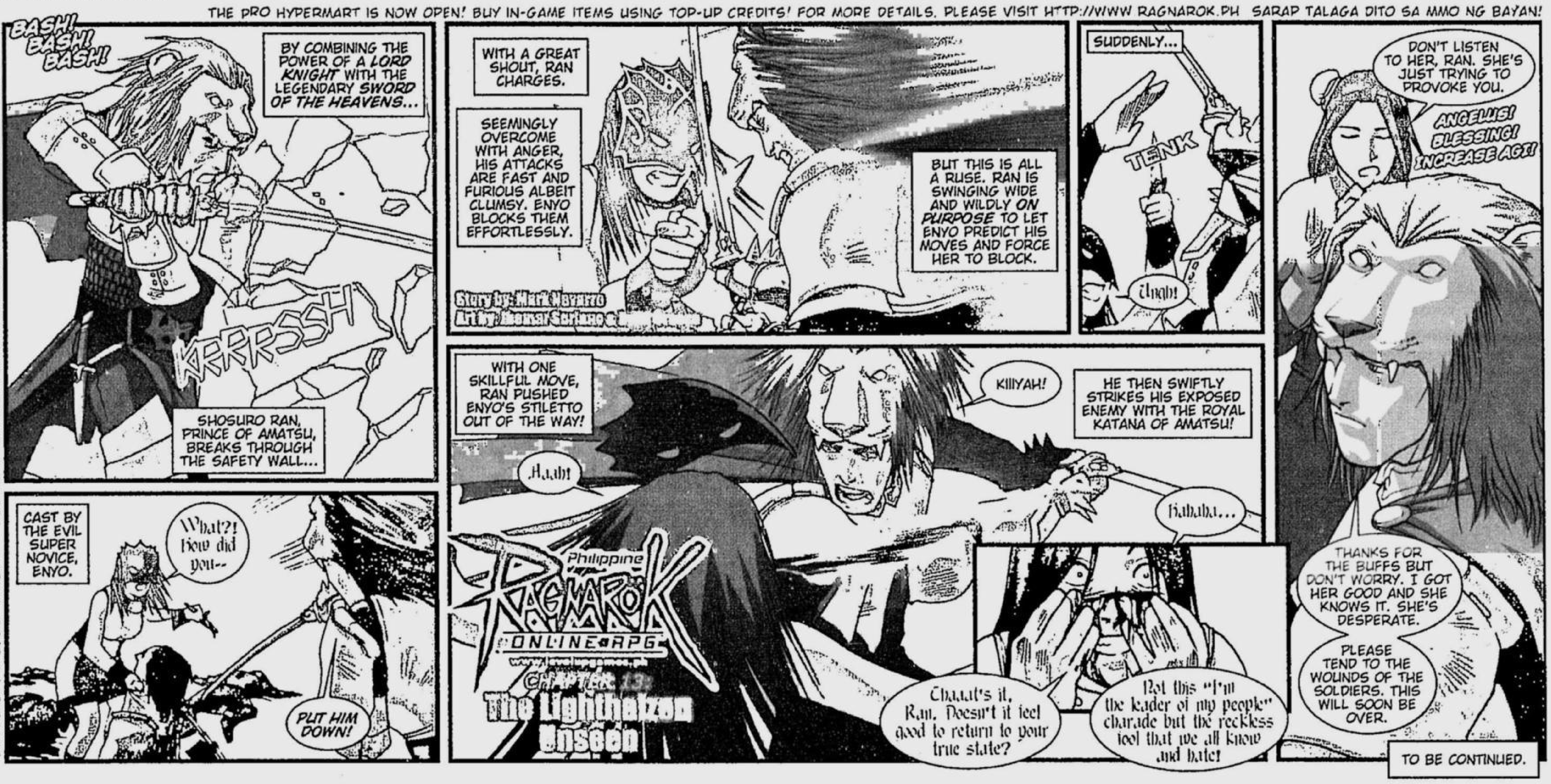
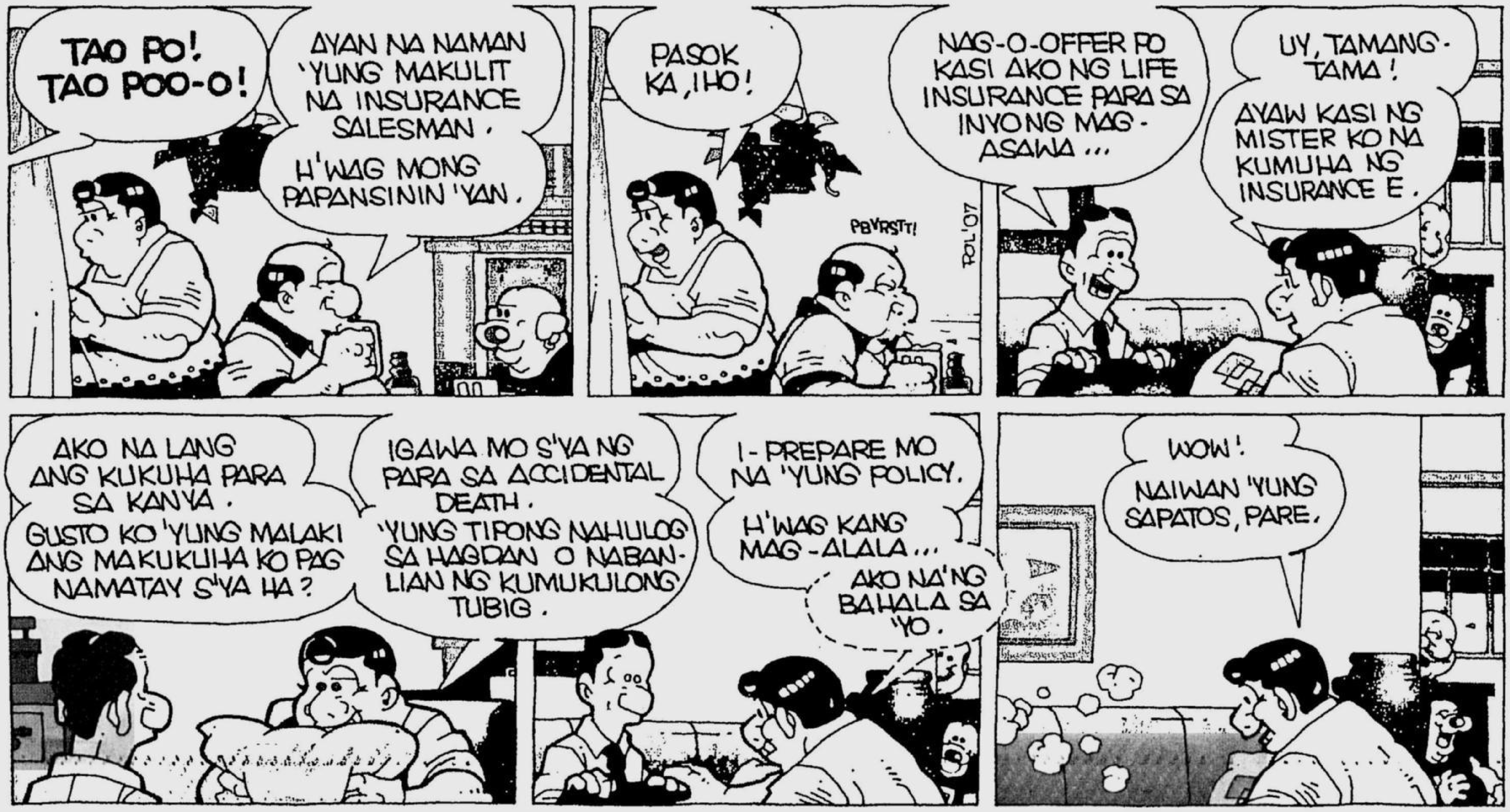

BASH! BASH! BASH!
BY COMBINING THE POWER OF A LORD KNIGHT WITH THE LEGENDARY SWORD OF THE HEAVENS...
KRRRSSH
SHOSURO RAN, PRINCE OF AMATSU, BREAKS THROUGH THE SAFETY WALL...
CAST BY THE EVIL SUPER NOVICE, ENYO.
What?! How did you--
PUT HIM DOWN!
WITH A GREAT SHOUT, RAN CHARGES.
SEEMINGLY OVERCOME WITH ANGER, HIS ATTACKS ARE FAST AND FURIOUS ALBEIT CLUMSY. ENYO BLOCKS THEM EFFORTLESSLY.
BUT THIS IS ALL A RUSE. RAN IS SWINGING WIDE AND WILDLY ON PURPOSE TO LET ENYO PREDICT HIS MOVES AND FORCE HER TO BLOCK.
Story by: Mark Navarro
SUDDENLY...
TENK
Ungh!
WITH ONE SKILLFUL MOVE, RAN PUSHED ENYO'S STILETTO OUT OF THE WAY!
Haah!
KIIIYAH!
HE THEN SWIFTLY STRIKES HIS EXPOSED ENEMY WITH THE ROYAL KATANA OF AMATSU!
Hahaha...
Philippine Ragnarok ONLINE RPG
The Lighthalzen Unseen
Chaaat's it, Ran. Doesn't it feel good to return to your true state?
Not this "I'm the leader of my people" charade but the reckless fool that we all know and hate!
DON'T LISTEN TO HER, RAN. SHE'S JUST TRYING TO PROVOKE YOU.
ANGELUS! BLESSING! INCREASE AGI!
THANKS FOR THE BUFFS BUT DON'T WORRY. I GOT HER GOOD AND SHE KNOWS IT. SHE'S DESPERATE.
PLEASE TEND TO THE WOUNDS OF THE SOLDIERS. THIS WILL SOON BE OVER.

TO BE CONTINUED.

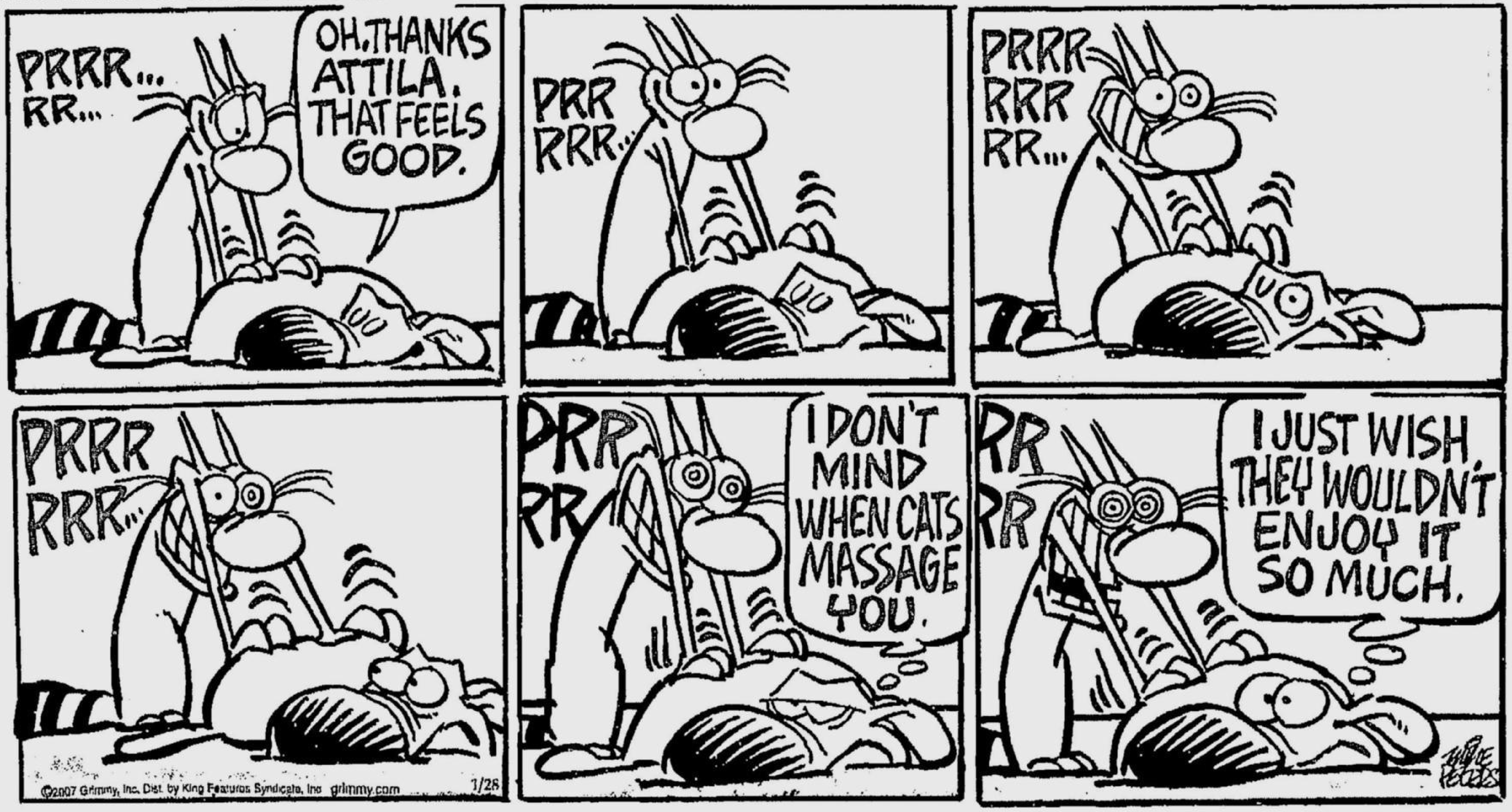
PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.


TAO PO! TAO POO-O!
AYAN NA NAMAN 'YUNG MAKULIT NA INSURANCE SALESMAN.
H'WAG MONG PAPANSININ 'YAN.
PASOK KA, IHO!
PBYRSTT!
POL '07
NAG-O-OFFER PO KASI AKO NG LIFE INSURANCE PARA SA INYONG MAG-ASAWA...
UY, TAMANG-TAMA!
AYAW KASI NG MISTER KO NA KUMUHA NG INSURANCE E.
AKO NA LANG ANG KUKUHA PARA SA KANYA.
GUSTO KO 'YUNG MALAKI ANG MAKUKUHA KO PAG NAMATAY S'YA HA?
IGAWA MO S'YA NG PARA SA ACCIDENTAL DEATH.
'YUNG TIPONG NAHULOG SA HAGDAN O NABANLIAN NG KUMUKULONG TUBIG.
I-PREPARE MO NA 'YUNG POLICY.
H'WAG KANG MAG-ALALA...
AKO NA'NG BAHALA SA 'YO.
WOW!
NAIWAN 'YUNG SAPATOS, PARE.

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


PRRR... RR...
OH, THANKS ATTILA. THAT FEELS GOOD.
PRR RRR...
PRRR RRR RR...
PRRR RRR...
PRR RR
I DON'T MIND WHEN CATS MASSAGE YOU.
RR RR
I JUST WISH THEY WOULDN'T ENJOY IT SO MUCH.
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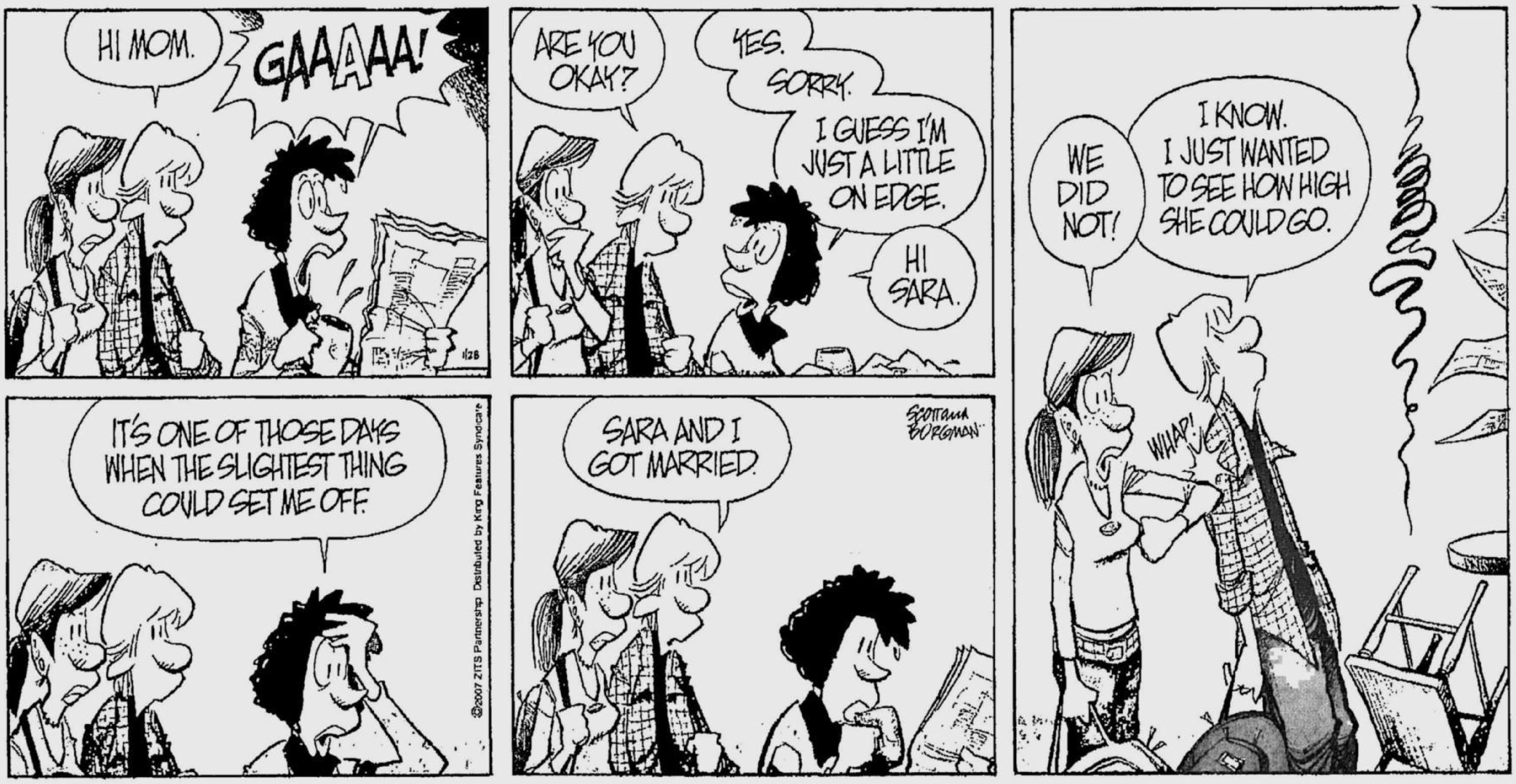
MIKE PETERS

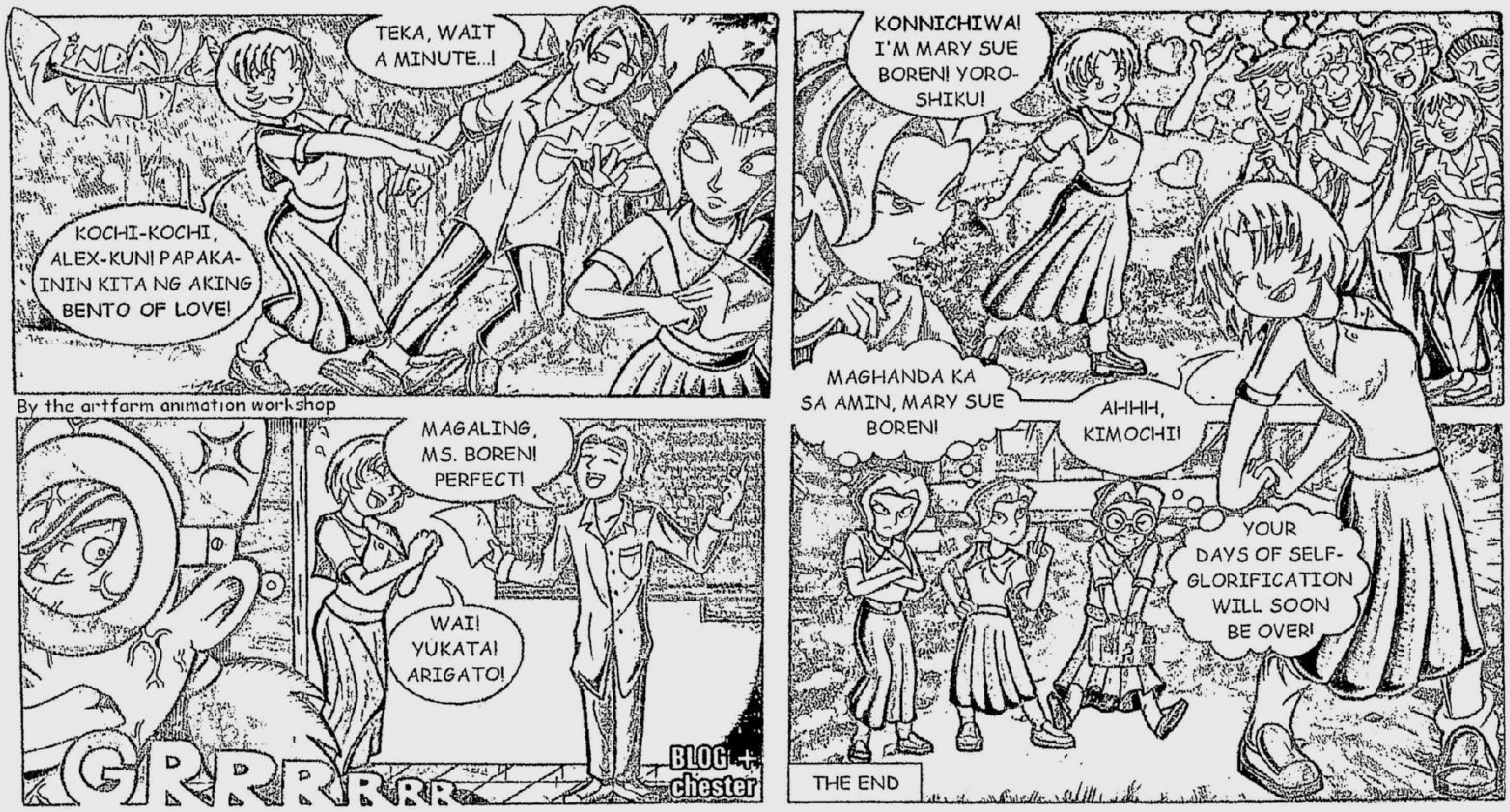
ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


HI MOM.
GAAAAA!
1/28
ARE YOU OKAY?
YES. SORRY.
I GUESS I'M JUST A LITTLE ON EDGE.
HI SARA.
IT'S ONE OF THOSE DAYS WHEN THE SLIGHTEST THING COULD SET ME OFF.
©2007 ZITS Partnership Distributed by King Features Syndicate
SARA AND I GOT MARRIED.
SCOTT and BORGMAN
WE DID NOT!
I KNOW. I JUST WANTED TO SEE HOW HIGH SHE COULD GO.
WHAP!

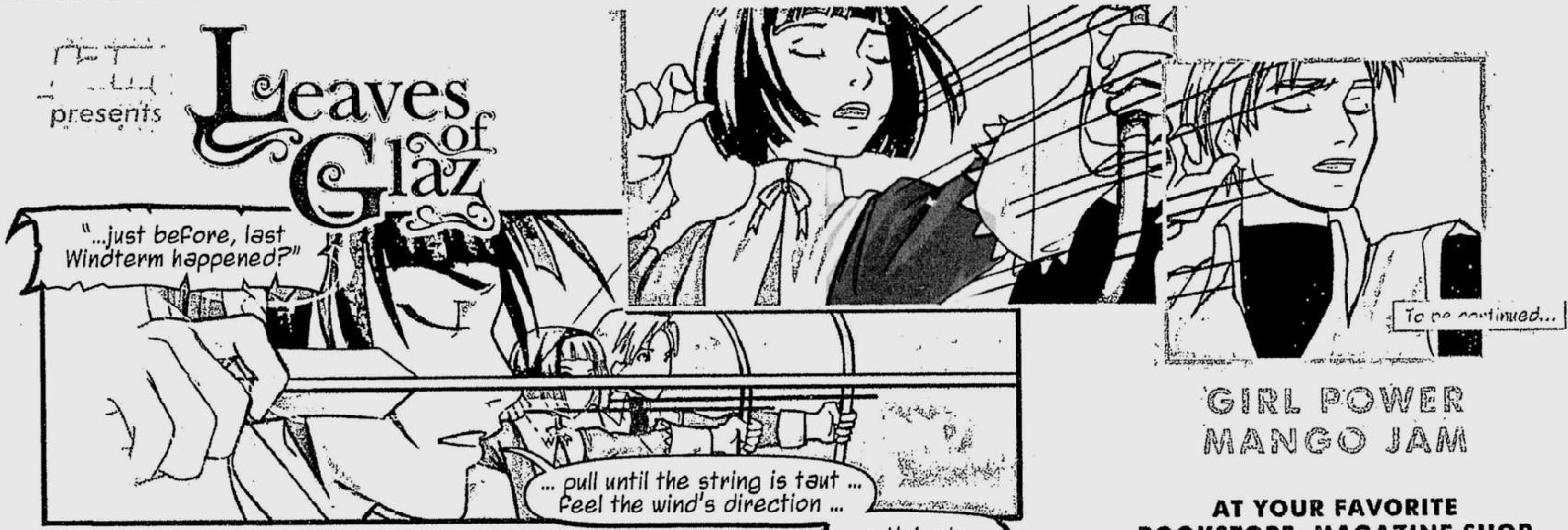
INDAY WANDA

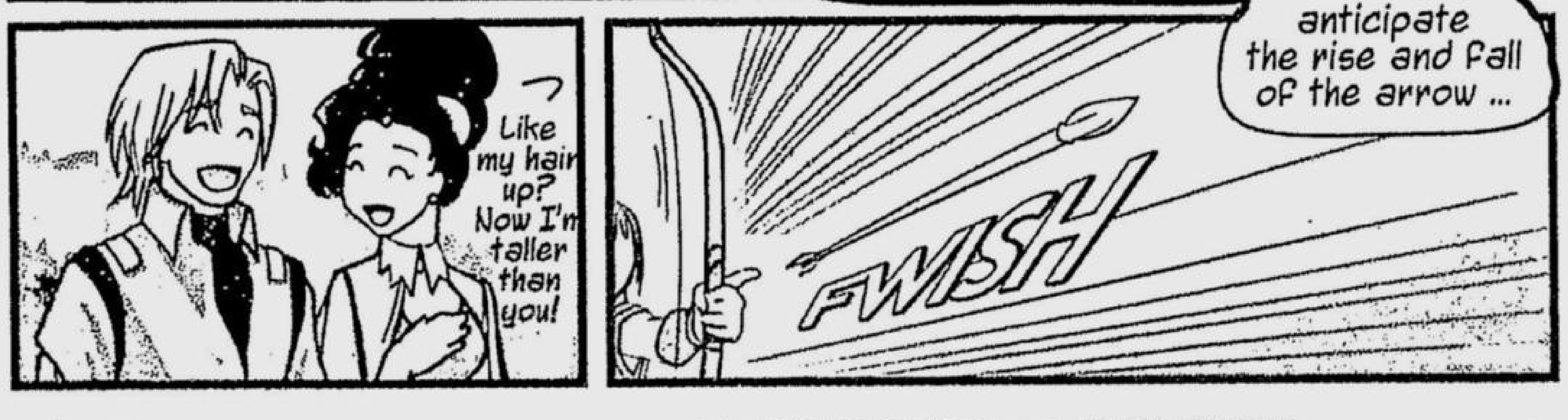
BY BLOG CALIGUIA


INDAY WANDA
KOCHI-KOCHI, ALEX-KUN! PAPAKAININ KITA NG AKING BENTO OF LOVE!
TEKA, WAIT A MINUTE...!
By the artfarm animation workshop
MAGALING, MS. BOREN! PERFECT!
WAI! YUKATA! ARIGATO!
GRRRRRR
BLOG + chester
KONNICHIWA! I'M MARY SUE BOREN! YOROSHIKU!
MAGHANDA KA SA AMIN, MARY SUE BOREN!
AHHH, KIMOCHI!
YOUR DAYS OF SELF-GLORIFICATION WILL SOON BE OVER!
THE END

LEAVES OF GLAZ

BY MANGO COMICS


presents
Leaves of Glaz
"...just before, last Windterm happened?"
... pull until the string is taut ... feel the wind's direction ...
To be continued...


anticipate the rise and fall of the arrow ...
Like my hair up? Now I'm taller than you!
FWISH

• words by CYAN ABAD-JUGO • art by MAISA DELURIA

㉘

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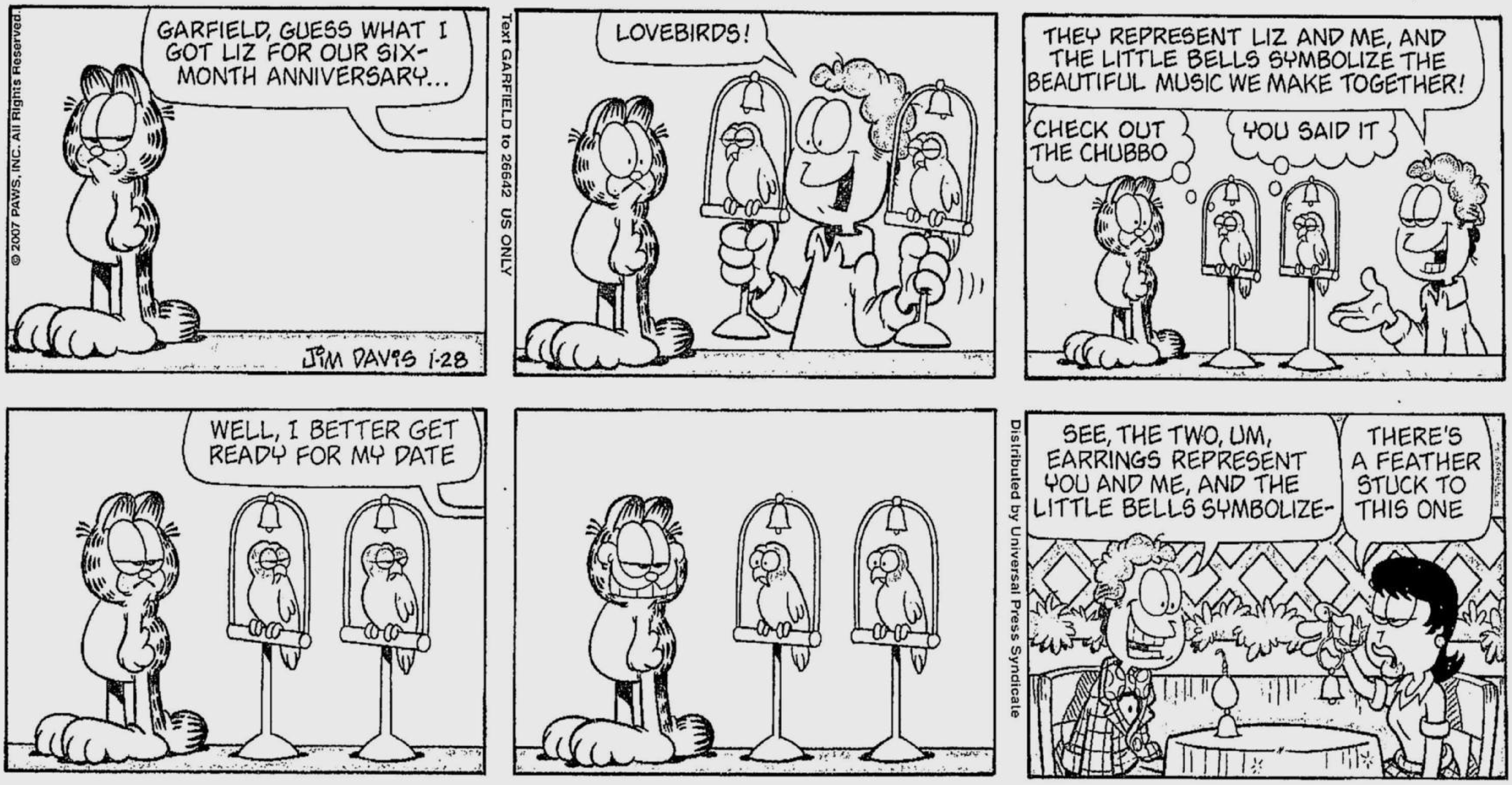
GIRL POWER
MANGO JAM

AT YOUR FAVORITE
BOOKSTORE, MAGAZINE SHOP

Meet the others...

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS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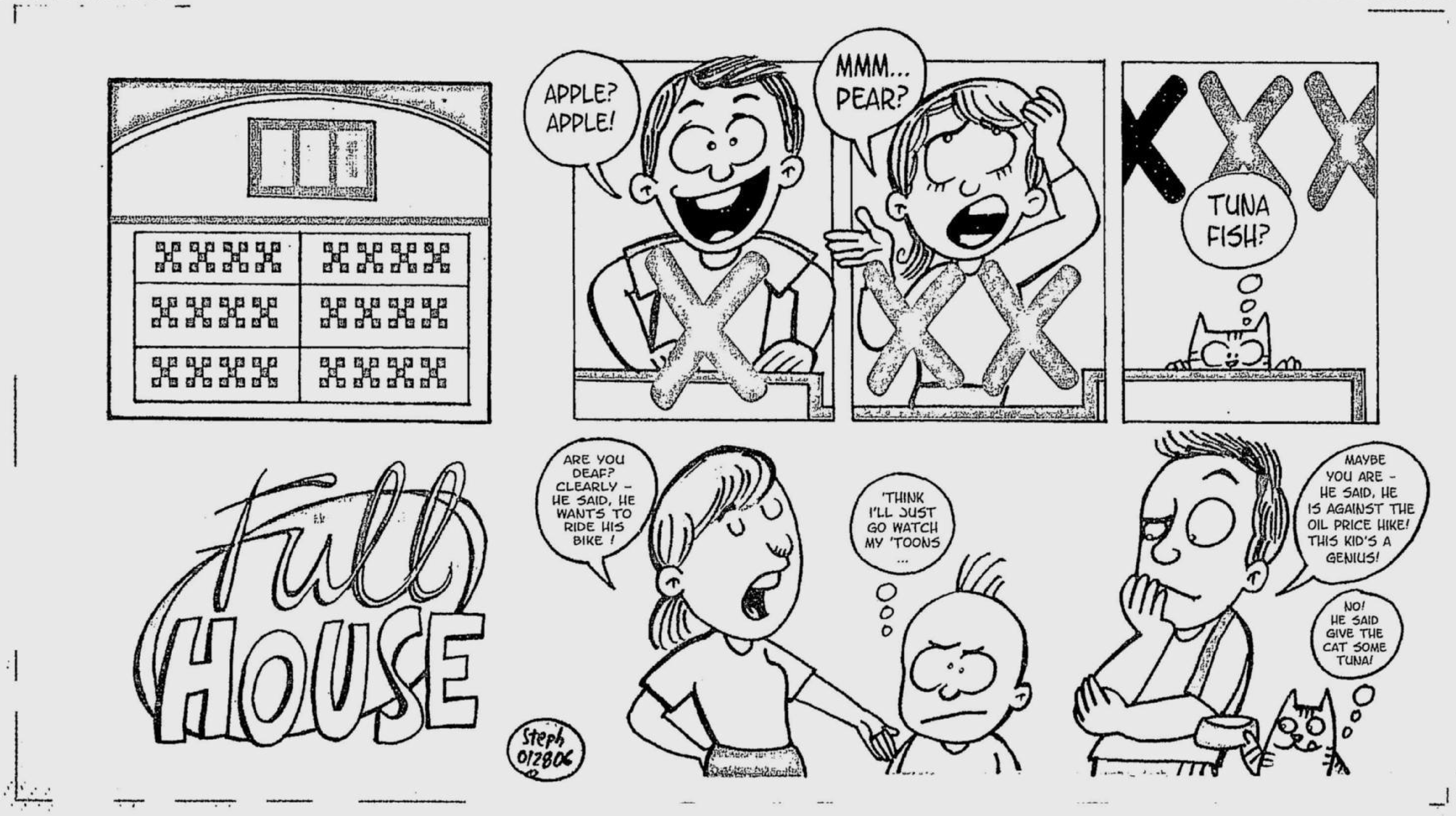
GARFIELD, GUESS WHAT I GOT LIZ FOR OUR SIX-MONTH ANNIVERSARY...
JIM DAVIS 1-28
Text GARFIELD to 26642 US ONLY
LOVEBIRDS!
THEY REPRESENT LIZ AND ME, AND THE LITTLE BELLS SYMBOLIZE THE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC WE MAKE TOGETHER!
CHECK OUT THE CHUBBO
YOU SAID IT
WELL, I BETTER GET READY FOR MY DATE
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
SEE, THE TWO, UM, EARRINGS REPRESENT YOU AND ME, AND THE LITTLE BELLS SYMBOLIZE-
THERE'S A FEATHER STUCK TO THIS ONE

FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO


APPLE? APPLE!
MMM... PEAR?
TUNA FISH?
Full HOUSE
ARE YOU DEAF? CLEARLY - HE SAID, HE WANTS TO RIDE HIS BIKE!
'THINK I'LL JUST GO WATCH MY 'TOONS ...
MAYBE YOU ARE - HE SAID, HE IS AGAINST THE OIL PRICE HIKE! THIS KID'S A GENIUS!
NO! HE SAID GIVE THE CAT SOME TUNA!
Steph 012806

sundayINQUIRERmagazine

January 28, 2007

FREE

Blood & Talent

Ana and Ina Feleo show that acting is in their genes as they share center stage with mom, veteran actress Laurice Guillen, in "The Glass Menagerie"

Plus:

2 Pinoy Stormtroopers in the Rose Parade • Celebrating the diversity of Filipino food • The animation industry strikes back Making the world her stage • and more

By Les Rodriguez

Out there on their OWN

Or why two gen-Xers junked iPod, Friendster and YouTube in favor of a little magazine to bring their point across

'ZINES in the time of MySpace and Multiply? Apparently, the printed page still holds sway.

Late last year, Claire Villacorta, 31, and Paolo Cruz, 27, self-described "independent media creators, full-time lovers, and Partners in Crimes Against Mediocrity," launched OWN!, a 24-page risographed 'zine or little magazine with a most unusual subject.

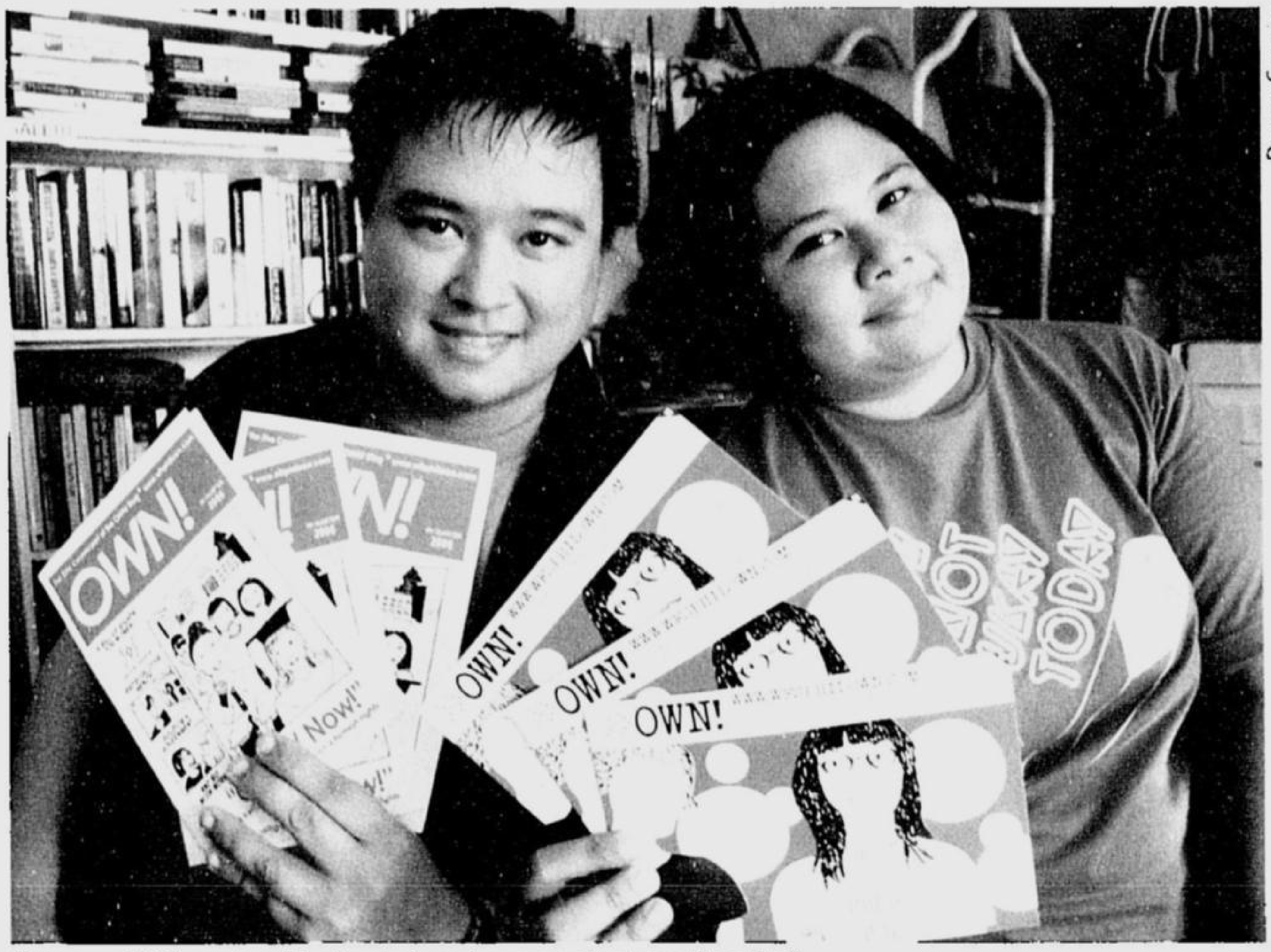
Instead of screeds on the state of their bellybuttons or fierce declarations of love for their favorite unsigned act, Villacorta and Cruz write about CEDAW.

Ano daw?
Exactly.

CEDAW stands for the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, otherwise known as the United Nations' Treaty for the Rights of Women. And the 'zine, OWN!, is the printed counterpart of an "inter-generational" blog that's part of the website of Women's Feature Service Philippines (WFS), an all-women international news bureau.

"It's easy to try and explain things by way of pop culture," says Villacorta on why they've come up with a 'zine format to discuss what many might consider a serious, but rather obscure, subject.

On the OWN! blog (www.wfsphilown.com), which calls itself "a space for *chikahan* between baby boomer feminists and the MTV generation," there's a piece called "Madonna: The New Whore?" reprinted from the local teen magazine, Meg. On the 'zine, a story on Philippine feminism leads off with the movie "Freaky Friday" in which mom and daughter switch bodies. An article on CEDAW is titled "Doncha Wish Your Girlfriend Was Empowered Like Me? CEDAW in the Era of Filipina 'Girl Power'."


Roger Carpio

Cruz and Villacorta: "Partners in crimes against mediocrity."

If that sounds a bit clunky, the writing isn't. It's patient and smart and tries not to oversimplify or condescend. It also bravely swishes past the "developmental"-type ennui that pervades most attempts to "popularize" or propagandize programs and advocacies like, say, population control.

A few minutes before the OWN! launch at the Datelines Bookstore in Marikina Shoe Expo in Cubao (which scenesters insist on renaming Cubao X), Villacorta and Cruz sat down with SIM to talk about why they own OWN!

Why do a 'zine now when you can lay down your intestines online?

VILLACORTA: The advantages of blogging is that you have things in real time; you're on top of issues that are out there but it's also nice to have something to hold in your hand, carry around, show other people.

How big is the 'zine thing?
V: People still want to do it despite the online presence. I think sometimes the online presence helps promote 'zines. Partly supplemental, partly choice. I know people who have actually started online, they're like 12. They just want to put something out in print because I guess they feel that the disciplines are different.

But are there a lot of 'zinesters?
CRUZ: There's an ebb and flow to it. It's almost cyclical; it's not a precise science.

Can you quantify?

C: There are two ways of looking at it; you can see 'zinesters as a community among themselves bound by the practice of working with print. And then there are people who see 'zines as supplemental to a larger subculture, in other words punk or ska or indie rock. They'd rather stick with people who share their own interests, and we just happen to have the blessing and the curse of having really diverse tastes.

Please expound.
V: Because when you target a specific music audience like ska or punk, they sort of expect the readers to be into the same thing. And they just have them in mind and screw the rest.

But 'zines are totally niche, that's just what they are, right? So you expect to speak to the converted.
V: Sometimes there are things that are off-putting, like sometimes it's the writing. Grammar aside, 'zines tend to be snobbish sometimes. And they can be hostile. Especially when they're raving against the system. For us, it's always been about pop culture and then eventually we got into feminism. It didn't happen overnight.

C: It was an organic process.

V: We actually did a feminist pop culture 'zine a few years back called Jawbreaker. (2002-2003). We called our little publication outfit Dumpling Press (www.dumplingpress.com). And WFS is our partner in the OWN! zine.

C: We got unsolicited press from it from Bust, a U.S. 'zine that went glossy.

V: Jawbreaker was about the *colegiala* experience, like me coming from a Catholic all-girls school—

C: —and how you developed a feminist consciousness in spite of that.

V: I knew the nuns were politicized in my school but it was not getting across or it didn't create that much of an impact on me.... Maybe I was so self-absorbed at the time.

Where did you go to high school?
V: Assumption.

Wow, that's so...classic!

V: My dad put me there.

And in college?
V: I went to De La Salle, Psychology then I ended up in media.

How do you like what you're doing now?
V: It's challenging actually, especially now that we did the OWN! 'zine because we're trying to get out youth perspectives.... CEDAW. Yes, that is very challenging....

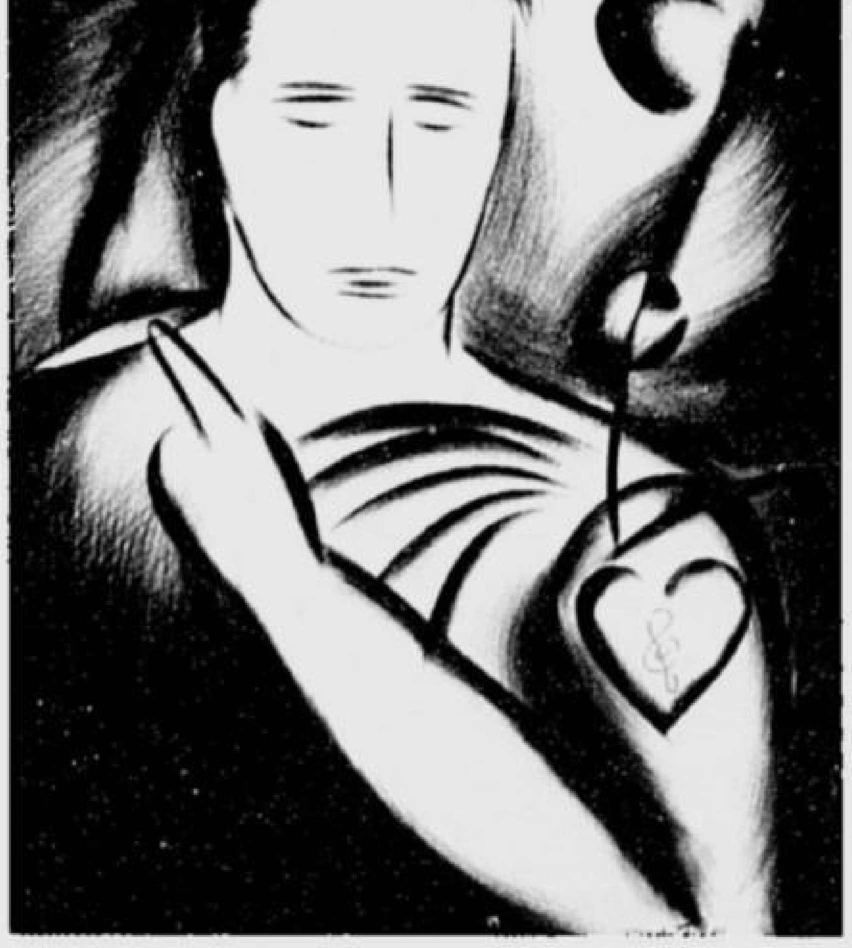
For the 'zine, it's our way of putting things into context like a bit of history, a bit of deconstructing the attitudes of Filipinos and how we could get to know about our rights as women. It's also for the so-called MTV generation to understand where their rights come from and to know that it doesn't happen in a vacuum. •

OWN! is available for P20 at Datelines Bookstore at the Marikina Shoe Expo in Cubao and during selected gigs. It's set to come out twice a year.

Homecoming

By Rene Guatlo

Fernando Modesto's vintage drawings and prints almost didn't make it to this exhibit, which will benefit a rural NGO


An early drawing by Modesto

ARTIST Fernando Modesto is home for good, after an absence of two decades. He is widely known abroad, especially in Jakarta, which he made his second home, as well as in Hong Kong, France, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States, where some of the more avid Modesto collectors are based. Educated at the University of Santo Tomas, and the Central St. Martins School of Art and Design in London, Modesto has exhibited in some of the most exclusive art venues in the Philippines, and abroad. He won the Grand Prize for Printmaking from the Art Association of the Philippines, as well as the Thirteen Artists Award from the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

On January 9, 2007, Modesto opened his first exhibit for the year at the Ayala Museum, "Manipulations of History," which showcases 13 canvases that reflect his literal and metaphorical journeys over the years.

Beginning February 2007, vintage Modesto works on paper, both drawings and prints, will be on view at Art Informal, 277 Connecticut Street, East Greenhills. Made in the early '80s, the drawings and prints represent one of the early phases of the artist's career. The works were collected by one of his colleagues at the United States Information Service (USIS), where he used to work as illustrator. The prints in particular, are noteworthy for having been included in the Third Biennale of Prints in Wakayama, Japan.

Modesto's colleague at USIS, Perla Manapol , collected many of his black and white works. She also bought an early Bencab piece while working in Jakarta, which later sold for many times the purchase price. The proceeds were donated to a local NGO in Aklan. Learning of the value of her Bencab painting, she decided to look

continued on page

Text and photographs by Margaux Salcedo

Embracing Our Diversity

Cendrillon's Amy Besa and Romy Dorotan celebrate the nuances behind the food we love in their fabulous new book

I LOVE Filipino food. Actually I love everything Filipino—our land, our seas, our beaches, our skies, our people, our language. We are a festive people,maybe initially shy but really full of fervor and life. Like most of our dishes, we sit quietly at first sight, then when the spoon hits the mouth, boom! *Ang asim!* Or *ang alat!* And of course, *ang sarap!* Yet other people the world over do not know of our flavors because we have had such a dearth of literature on Philippine cuisine and worse, some of those that have made it to print even diss what is true and what is ours, calling our cuisine "brown" or presenting our flavors apologetically, as if there was anything to be sorry for. It breaks my heart when lists are made of the world's best restaurants or foods, and the Philippines or Philippine cuisine is glaringly absent. Or when I meet a foreigner and all he associates with Philippine food is *balut* (like in an episode of the reality show "Fear Factor").

So as a Filipino who loves our country and cuisine, I am grateful and pleased when a *kababayan* succeeds in presenting Filipino food to a foreign audience (and maybe to a new generation of Filipinos who are growing up on fast food) as it is, and as it should be appreciated. An amazing couple is to be especially lauded for their efforts and success, the Cendrillon tandem of Romy Dorotan and Amy Besa. The couple owns this Filipino/pan-Asian restaurant in New York's hip Soho district. They have also recently completed the book "Memories of Philippine Kitchens," initially launched in the United States and again just this January here in Manila. (The book is currently available in A Different Bookstore and Fully Booked.)

Living legends: Food writer Michaela Fenix and Chef Myrna Segismundo congratulate Amy Besa at the launch of "Memories of Philippine Kitchens"

The book is deserving of all the praises it receives, and Amy Besa is a hero in her own right for having even dared the almost impossible feat of answering the question, What is Filipino food? Besa answered truthfully, calling Filipino food a "rich, nuanced cuisine" (possibly also because of such a diverse heritage and several colonial influences) while giving examples of "indigenized" dishes and carefully explaining that Filipino food is best appreciated in the context of the Filipino kitchen, where food is garnished with an abundance of hospitality and generosity.

The book is ingeniously divided into Food That Was Always Ours, Food That Was Borrowed and Made Our Own (what Doreen Fernandez called "the indigenization of Filipino food"), and Changing Landscapes, a section that discusses the challenge of the immigrant (or overseas Filipino workers) in replicating food from home. Food That Was Always Ours includes *adobo, sinigang, kare-kare* and *kakanins.* Unlike the Kulinarya attempt to give a standard recipe for *adobo*, Amy Besa embraces our diversity, presenting variations to this well-loved recipe. She also states her theory that "if you free people from the tyranny of exact measurements, they can create their own perfect *adobo,"* further explaining that "achieving the ultimate nuances of flavors in an *adobo* is a very personal and subjective experience."

I also like that she gives credit where it is due, and mentions not only the aristocrats of an area but also the *manongs* and *manangs* who, more often than not, are the true authorities of real Filipino delicacies. Over lunch at the Salcedo Market, she fondly recalled an experience with international figure skater Sasha Cohen, who chanced upon Cendrillon

(continued on page 15)

By Katrina A. Holigores
Photographs by Rudy Esperas

For Ana Valdes-Lim, All the World's a Stage—And a Classroom

Her acting school days in New York were filled with celebrity sightings, but she's never been starstruck. After all, she'd rather bring out the best in another person's performance than be in the limelight herself

A LITTLE intimidated is how one might feel after glancing at the credentials of Ana Valdes-Lim. But they do explain why she was the obvious choice to be the current artistic director of Assumption College Makati, where she has been overseeing the operations of the Marie Eugenie Theater (METTA) since 2004.

Ana holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theater from the prestigious Juilliard School in New York, and was featured as one of this school's 100 Most Outstanding Alumni Profiles in 2005. Asked about her days in school, she rattles off Val Kilmer, Kevin Spacey, Christopher Reeve, Kevin Kline and even Marcia Cross (who happens to be the godmother of one of her sons) as part of her everyday sightings. But there is no hint of this woman being starstruck. And why should she be? After a few minutes of conversation, one learns that her passion lies more in teaching and bringing out the best in another's performance rather than wanting to be in the limelight herself. Ana's esteemed professors and Hollywood luminary schoolmates are simply part of the background elements in her own passion to improve the standards of theater and acting in the Philippines.

While quickly giving a tour of the METTA office, she shifts her attention to a series of masks on one of the benches. Minutes later, a whole box of masks of different shapes, sizes, colors—some coming from abroad, others custom-made locally—are laid out on a dressing room table. "I love masks," Ana says with great enthusiasm. "I teach Mask Acting, a technique used to develop character. When you put on a mask, it actually comes alive." A series of photographs of her workshops confirms this. The images show actors in different poses, with their moods shining through despite the masks they wore. If she had simply chosen to show the photos without offering an explanation, the viewer would still be able to come up with a simple storyline.

(continued on page 6)

For Ana Valdes-Lim, All the World's a Stage—And a Classroom (from page 5)

With the volunteer cast of "A Hundred Milyon Miracles"

Another predominant technique she has been known to use in her workshops and classes is improv, or improvisational acting. Ana firmly states that the technique is not limited to comedy, but rather, is an overall, natural way to draw out a unique performance from each and every actor.

"When I used to act myself, I would not watch another actor's portrayal of the character," she recalls. "I didn't want to be influenced by, or be compared to that actor. I notice that in most local stage productions, if you close your eyes, it's almost like you were watching the original international production. What I want to focus on is something more natural. Improv is the most basic; there are no props and no sets and an actor comes from within and goes outwards."

Ana's love for improv has resulted in her founding the group Philippine Playhouse in 2002. Consisting of 10 members, Philippine Playhouse has performed all over the country, mostly comedy because, this has proven to be more accessible to the audience. Ana insisted, however, that they look beyond the normal, obvious comedy, and use all their resources with improv to come up with scenarios that were a little more stimulating so that the audience could think along rather than passively watch the show.

"It's not enough to be entertained," says Ana. "I would eventually like to see productions that have much more educational and social responsibility, I believe in transforming an audience. I would love it if, during a production, they would have more 'a-ha!' moments. If they could take a classic and use the message of that play to hit a nerve today, that would be an ideal scenario for me."

A combination of using improvisation for acting and producing a show with a conscience has resulted in Ana's latest project, "A Hundred Milyon Miracles." Inspired by the musicale "Flower Drum Song," the project came about when Pinky Valdes (no relation), a composer with three CDs to her name, wanted to collaborate on a musical, she reveals. "It was also befitting that Assumption's founder, Marie Eugenie, is being canonized, so we thought, 'Why not?' It would be in perfect time," adds Ana.

The most interesting aspect of the musicale is not so much that it's an original Filipino musical, but that its entire cast of over a hundred performers are all volunteers. "Yes," laughs Ana. "The professionals are all doing behind-the-scenes roles—as choreographer, understudies or coaches—but the cast comes from the Assumption San Lorenzo faculty, staff and students. For example, the man who plays the lead character is our cafeteria cook! He cooks for the school, rehearses during his break and goes back to cooking!"

What's probably even more surprising is how Ana landed her role in producing the musical. Ana Valdes-Lim came back to the Philippines after 25 years of living abroad, and has found her calling not only in teaching thespians but professionals as well. This adjunct professor at the Asian Institute of Management conducts team building, improvisation and spontaneity workshops for the Executive program and Business School. She has written a book titled "Workshop: A Manual on Acting," which highlights her preferred Mask and Improvisation method.

Ana's manner is warm, engaging and spontaneous, never staged as some might expect from one with a theater background. How apropos for someone who stresses that the best way to establish that almost elusive connection between character and audience is to just be yourself. •

"A Hundred Milyon Miracles" will be staged on Feb. 9 and 16 at the Mother Rose Auditorium in Assumption College, San Lorenzo, Makati. For more information, call The Marie Eugenie Theater of the Assumption (METTA) at (02) 817-0757 loc. 1161-63 or email: metta_assumption@yahoo.com.ph

Winsome threesome: Laurice Guillen with daughters Ana and Ina Feleo lead the cast of "The Glass Menagerie"

By Cora Llamas
Photographs by August de la Cruz

Blood and Talent

Acclaimed director and actress Laurice Guillen returns to the stage, where it all began for her—and she's sharing the limelight with daughters and aspiring performers Ana and Ina

EXCITEMENT rippled through the small, cozy college theater when news broke out that Laurice Guillen, award-winning director and actress, was returning to her Ateneo roots to appear as the lead in Tennessee Williams' "The Glass Menagerie." Tanghalang Ateneo (TA) director Ricky Abad happily noted that his students came in on time, and always made sure that everything was ready before the start of rehearsals. The buzz had also spread beyond the confines of the campus, as celebrities and other VIPs soon made it known that they would be watching the play once curtains opened.

It was, after all, Guillen's first theatrical appearance in 30 years, in the same university where she first acquired a love for the thespic craft.

Ina plays the insecure Laura to mother Laurice Guillen's manipulative Amanda

Abad recalls those earlier days in his Director's Notes: "Laurice was a fantastic stage actress before she directed for film, and was a student of Rolando Tinio when the Department of Communication ran a master's program in theater arts." The then ingénue mastered her acting wings in plays like "Anna Klieber," "The Promise," and *"Paglipas ng Dilim."*

In "Menagerie," Guillen's daughters, Ina and Ana Feleo, are also poised to cross their dramatic skills with her, alternately appearing as the insecure, inhibited Laura to Laurice's more boisterous, manipulative Amanda.

The homecoming was more than just a reunion; it was another expression of the spirituality that Guillen and family had developed after their well-known sabbatical from showbusiness to immerse themselves in the Marian Movement years ago. Previous offers to do stage work from professional theater companies had been sidelined by her busy film schedule, but Guillen affirms the reasons for making her comeback in a student company. Guillen admits, "This is a college production. We don't have a fabulous theater with fabulous acoustics. But doing it here is a dedication to the theater. It's going back to one's roots." She believes it's a way of reminding herself, *"Magpakumbaba ka na naman.*(Be humble.) You may have a reputation and all this publicity, but your humanity is flawed."

She adds, "I feel comfortable doing it here because this is where I started my career in the theater. I'm coming back after 30 years and I'm not sure if I can still memorize or if my voice can still carry. Not that I can't, but I haven't done it in a long time. Those are the reasons why I decided that this is the best place for me to start."

Those instances when the flawed feet do show can become hilarious, attests 21-year-old Ina, who had appeared in three TA plays before signing on to do this one. Ina laughs, "It's funny. *Hirap na siya sa* memory. *Wala na, kapag naglilinya kami.* Or *tatalon siya ng isang buong eksena. Magaling siya mag-*control *ng tawa. Kami ni* Ana, *hindi."* (She has a hard time with her memory now. When we throw lines, that's it. Or she'll skip a whole screen. She's good at controlling her laughter. Ana and I aren't.)

It's the first time that the Bayanihan National dancer will interact on stage with any member of her family. Ana, Guillen, and her husband Johnny Delgado did it years ago in a *"Maalala Mo Kaya"* episode. During that taping, Ana describes how the other acclaimed actor in the family kept the distance between the professional and the personal. "Daddy was very aloof," says Ana. *"Hindi niya kami pinapansin."* (He wouldn't mind us.)

Things are a bit warmer in this particular production. Mother and daughters practically bond every day; they leave for rehearsals together, practice their lines together, and enjoy the occasional postmortem midnight snack together.

Though the two ladies had been visitors to their parents' tapings when they were children, Ana acknowledges that in this exercise, "I'm seeing a different side of Mom. I see her as an actress and how she prepares. It

relaxes me. *Kahit nanay ko siya, parepareho kaming artista, nagtutulungan kami."* (Even if she's my mom, we're all actors, we help each other.)

Ina cites how her mother helped her wrestle with the difficulty of projecting the wallflower Laura in the absence of a strong dramatic moment. Guillen coached her then, "Remember how you once danced this solo. It was super quiet, the only sound was from the *kulintang*, and you had this special light. When you danced that, you were telling a story, you were able to hold that moment. *May narinirig kang kuwento —i*-translate *mo iyan sa role mo as* Laura." (You heard a story—translate that into your role as Laura.)

Though neither Delgado nor Guillen encouraged either girl to follow in their footsteps, it was only a matter of time before the drama bug bit. As a child, Ana, the older of the two, imagined herself as one of the lead characters in her favorite fairy tales. It would eventually blossom into a Music degree and parts in musicals like *"Sino Ka Ba, Jose Rizal," "Alikabok"* and "Spoliarium," where she played the ill-fated Paz Pardo de Tavera. A soprano under the tutelage of Fides Cuyugan-Asensio, Ana last appeared in The Philippine Opera Company's "Master Class."

Ironically, though the younger Ina had, at the age of 7, declared to her mother that she wanted to be a star, it took her skating competitions and her dancing to gradually thaw out her shyness. "*Doon nagsimula ang hilig ko sa* performance. Feeling *ka nabubukod sa mundo."* (That's where my love for performance started. I felt set apart from the world.) A series of acting workshops removed the inhibition. Auditions and membership in the Bayanihan, thanks to her sister Ana's friend, who saw Ina accompanying her sister, sealed her fate.

The two admit that during the early days, their famous parentage did not make the auditions easy. Expectations were high, and some casting folks insinuated that performances should always be at par because the best of the craft literally flowed in their veins.

"Kapag nalaman nila kung sino ang mga magulang mo, papahirapan ka" (If they find out who your parents are, they'll give you a hard time), Ana bluntly says. In one instance, one director frankly told her, "If you only had 1/5 of your mother's talent!"

One reprieve that allowed the girls to carve their own niche was that they sang and danced while their parents did not.

Ina handled the pressure by either ignoring snide remarks or living up to her heritage. *"Nasa utak mo naman iyan kung papapasukin mo"* (It's up to you if you let that into your head), she says wryly. "Or *puede mong sakyan—oo nga, nasa dugo ko"* (Or you can play along—yes, it's in my blood).

Meanwhile, the proud mother points out the strengths that she sees in her children.

Ana in a dramatic scene with mom Laurice: "It's in my blood."

Guillen says that Ina has "precision. I saw her training in figure skating in the States, which she also used in her dancing. Ana really prepares for a role. I hear her, every morning she vocalizes. I have respect and admiration for them because of the way they respect their craft."

Since their children's first forays into the stage, Guillen and Delgado would make it a habit to unobtrusively drop by, watch the rehearsals, and give feedback later.

"They can tell if you know what you're doing or if you're just playing," Ina grins. "You just wink, and they know."

Ana remarks that Delgado is the more candid parent. *"Iyon ang brutal, iiyak ka* (He's brutal, you'll cry)," she says, tongue-in-cheek. *"Kailangan marunong kang mag*-discern—who is your father, who is the artist."

Guillen says that Delgado did drop by one "Menagerie" rehearsal, watched his wife and daughters at work, and left before the lights opened. "He was envious and wanted to take a peek," she says. "He dropped in, unannounced, then he left, quietly."

With both girls determined to pursue their dramatic interests, it may not be too long before we see one production with the entire family. Meanwhile, Guillen, aside from other stage appearances, is keen on making her own films. She, Delgado, and a partner have recently put up Pixelgrain Inc. and are currently running through several film ideas. "I'd like to be able to produce and own my own films."

Several years ago, Guillen and Delgado left their full-time apostolate (although they are still active in the movement) to return to show business, prompted by a spiritual message relayed by a priest: "It is time to go out of your hiddenness."

It may also be time for Guillen to unveil her considerable acting mettle for a younger stage audience who has not yet seen her on stage—and a chance for Ina and Ana to shine even brighter.•

"The Glass Menagerie" goes onstage at the Rizal Theater of the Ateneo de Manila until Feb. 10. Call 426-6001 local 5121 or (0906) 502-6484 (Pia Bonales) for ticket information.

By Regina Layug

BY GEORGE, ARE THOSE PINOY STORMTROOPERS IN THE ROSE PARADE?

All decked out in their fiberglass Stormtroopers costumes, two Star Wars-struck Filipinos become part of the spectacular New Year Parade in Los Angeles, thanks to Grand Marshall George Lucas

Oneal Rosero

Dress rehearsals: Author is the noticeably short trooper behind the Imperial officer

IT WAS literally an out-of-this-galaxy experience: marching under the California sun as part of the Rose Parade in full battle regalia as one of 200 Stormtroopers from Star Wars. As one of only two Filipinos personally chosen by George Lucas himself, who was Grand Marshall for this year's parade, I was in seventh heaven.

So how did I wind up in this much anticipated New Year spectacle in Los Angeles in the first place?

For starters, I'm a member of the 501st Legion of Stormtroopers, a group of dedicated Star Wars fans who specialize in the costumes of villains in the popular movie series. Founded by Albin Johnson in 1997, the group has been helping Lucasfilms Ltd. (LFL) in promoting Star Wars Episode III through charity activities, visits to hospitals, fundraising, and other civic acts. The 501st has members in at least 34 countries, 4,000 of them in the United States alone. Locally, it is represented by the Philippine Outpost.

In 2005, Lucas realized how helpful the group has been to LFL and decided to return the favor. In July 2006, in a direct order to our commanding officer, Manny Mendoza, the Legion Command Staff and LFL asked us to shoot a video of our outpost marching in unison and introducing each trooper individually. Speculation abounded: Was the shoot going to be used for the 30th anniversary of Star Wars in 2007? No one knew for sure.

But soon enough, the Legion announced that what we had shot was actually an audition video to help LFL decide on the 200 troopers who would be included in the Rose Parade. In a gesture of thanks, Lucas wanted the 501st to join him in the Rose Parade! What a grand gesture from one who has created such vast galaxies onscreen.

In October last year, an e-mail informed Manny and myself that we had been chosen, out of the five Pinoy troopers in the audition video, to march in the Parade. Fedex packages from Lucasfilms soon arrived, with instructions, agreement forms, letters, and even assistance with obtaining a visa to the United States.

This was no small undertaking for LFL. Approximately $20 million was spent on airfare for troopers from Asia, Europe and all over the US, for accommodations at the Sheraton Universal Hotel, three meals a day including buffet breakfasts and dinners, and bus rentals, among other expenses. Manny and I flew to LA on December 27, tagging along my boyfriend Oneal to document the event, and started off a week of Star Wars wonder.

Though we've been back a month ago, the memories still overwhelm me. We met members of the 501st from 34 US states and 22 different countries. We met the drill master, Col. Anthony Toledo, who is Japanese-Korean but was raised by Filipino parents in San

Francisco. We met LFL staff Steve Sansweet, director of Fan Relations, and Mary Franklin, events coordinator. We met others who are legendary in fan circles for impeccable costumes, and a few more who are famous for building impressive, practically movie-quality props, such as the well-loved droid, R2D2.

Karen Louie

"The Maker": George Lucas with the Asian troopers, the author on his left

On our first night, in a welcome banquet prepared for all the troopers and the 170 members of the Grambling State University marching band, we were told, "Don't go yet; Santa's coming with a treat for you." Sure enough, the doors opened to reveal George Lucas himself! The hall erupted in riotous applause, and I was so stunned that I almost forgot to take pictures. Manny shook me to my senses, at which point I ran to the podium and took as many pictures as my height would allow, amid other troopers at least a foot taller than me.

Four days later, we had a dress rehearsal in full costume, with George Lucas graciously posing for pictures with the troops and the band, the flag company surrounding everyone with 60 flags flapping beautifully in the wind. Even better, Lucas agreed to have pictures taken with the troops from different regions. There were 17 of us Asians and I was standing right beside him. Then he shook my hand! I was so stunned to be face to face with The Maker (as fans call him) that I don't even recall what he told me. All I remember was being able to whisper, "Thank you, George."

Another memorable moment was the night of cultural exchange, when I brought out *polvoron*, ChocNut and Orange Swits to swap. At the suggestion of a Fil-Am from San Francisco, we fed the other troopers *polvoron* and made them whistle. One naughty trooper, armed with a video camera, recorded the laughs that came from both onlookers and *polvoron* victims. After that, the entire 501st became wary every time I offered them food, suspicious that I was going to make them whistle again. I kept telling them, "But it tastes good, right?" They had to agree.

Then there was the parade itself. People must realize that it takes a truly dedicated fan to walk 5.5 miles under the hot California sun, which even on January 1, was not too kind, especially when you're wearing fiberglass armor, black underclothes, and a set of thermal underwear.

The armor are made of either ABS plastic or fiberglass, and are offered for sale by manufacturers all over the United States and Europe. The costume, excluding the helmet, costs from US$350 to $US2,000 apiece, with the average cost in the vicinity of US$800. For shipping to the Philippines, tack on an additional $150, and the work doesn't even stop there. Because the armor is often designed for Caucasians who are 5'8" and above, local troopers often need to trim their armor to fit Filipino dimensions. For fiberglass armor, there's the additional task of painting, sanding and polishing to match the pristine white and smooth shine of the plastic. On top of that, you'll also need to attach straps to keep the armor together while you're wearing it.

Helmets are another matter altogether. There are different sizes and styles which are available in plastic and fiberglass as well. Average stormtrooper helmets cost about US$250, while biker scout helmets range from US$60-100. Helmets for other costumes, such as the clone troopers, are usually harder to find, and many costumers build their own helmets, making molds out of wood and clay and vacuum-forming the plastic to these molds.

Perhaps the most intriguing costume to build are the droids. There is a large community of fans who build the droids, in particular the spunky little R2D2. The droids are made with a variety of materials, either wood or metal frames, with the exteriors made of machined aluminum or stamped sheet metal. The interiors are usually full of electrical components that allow the units to perform a wide variety of actions performed by R2D2 onscreen. In the movie "Star Wars," British actor Kenny Baker animates R2D2 from inside.

Among the more difficult costumes to make and wear are the protocol droids, such as C3PO, 4-LOM, the Death Star droid, TC-14, U3PO. There are less than 10 wearable droid costumes known to exist in the fan community; it's a costume that requires the wearer to be of a very slight build and at least 5'6" in height. The droid costumes are usually made of fiberglass, almost totally encasing the wearer in the armor. To achieve the metallic look of these droids, the fiberglass needs to be vacuum-metallized, which costs from US$1,500-3,000. Visibility in these costumes is very low; often all the wearer can see through are pinholes in the helmet's eyepieces. Mobility is extremely limited as well, since even the wearer's knees are armored and can barely bend. When Anthony Daniels wore his C3PO costume, he had to be put on a dolly and wheeled to locations for shooting, and wheeled back to the dressing room.

The most expensive costume belongs to the central character in the "Star Wars" saga: Darth Vader. An accurate helmet alone will cost approximately US$800, while the rest of the costume requires a quilted leather body suit, a full-length robe, a billowing cape made of satin and wool, knee-high leather boots, plastic armor parts, electronics for the breathing sounds and the lights on the belt and the chest box, leather gauntlets, and a well-built person of at least 6'2" to wear it. The entire suit can

(continued on page 12)

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

1	4				3	8		
		6	7	1				
7	9				4	3		
		8	9				1	5
				3	8	2		
		1	2				9	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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1 28

Answer to previous puzzle

7	8	3	1	4	2	6	5	9
9	1	6	7	5	8	4	3	2
4	2	5	9	3	6	8	1	7
8	5	7	3	2	1	9	6	4
2	6	9	4	7	5	3	8	1
1	3	4	6	8	9	2	7	5
5	9	8	2	1	3	7	4	6
6	7	1	8	9	4	5	2	3
3	4	2	5	6	7	1	9	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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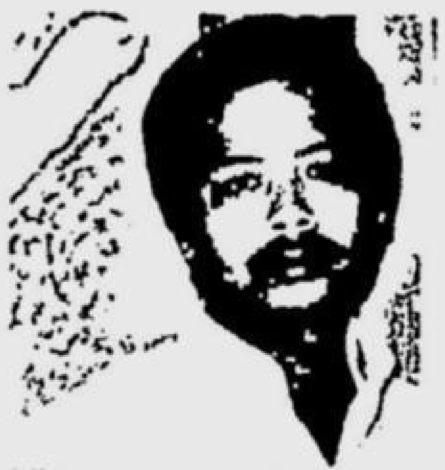
Homecoming



The artist in 1987

for Modesto's works on paper.

The bundle of Modesto art works on paper were sent to Perla's sister for safekeeping. A year or so ago, Perla returned just in time to retrieve the art works—they were already scheduled for disposal because of her long absence! She is exhibiting the works on paper, in a show that will benefit the Sustainable Rural Enterprise (SRE) based at the Aklan State University in Banga, Aklan. The organization focuses on community-based work that encourages self-sufficiency and independence. SRE currently operates a coconut coir processing facility in Ibajay, Aklan, where waste coconut husks are processed into high-value products including cocofiber nets and coconut dust-based organic fertilizer. The enterprise employs more than 500 families of poor coconut farmers and former NPA guerrillas; a replication of the "Aklan Model" in Sulu provides employment for more than 300 families including former MILF insurgents.

The drawings and prints will finally see the light of day on February 1, 2007 at the main exhibition hall of Art Informal at Greenhills. During the opening cocktails at 6, the artist will be on hand to meet and greet visitors and collectors, to renew old ties, and create new friendships. •

By George, Are Those Pinoy Stormtroopers in the Rose Parade? (from page 11)

Oneal Rosero

VADER'S
501st LEGION

Manny Mendoza and Layug wave the Philippine colors proudly

cost up to US$5,000.

But more than the costumes, the Rose Parade itself held special meaning for me. I had first watched it on TV over 10 years ago with my parents when we visited San Francisco. My father, who died in 2005, introduced me to Star Wars when I was a child, and as we marched onto Colorado Blvd., I remembered the joy we shared over the original trilogy. Tears streaked my face—how happy he would have been to know that there I was, finally meeting George Lucas, wearing the costume and marching in the parade. "I'm going to finish the parade for you, Dad," I whispered as I cried under my helmet. Later at the buffet dinner, I told the other troopers how I literally shed blood, sweat and tears just to keep marching. I have a painful blister on my right ankle and a sweaty jumpsuit as proof.

It all seemed like a marvelous dream. If not for my sore muscles and the still-fresh blister, it would all seem unreal: waking up to a buffet breakfast at 6:30 a.m., being hand-picked by LFL for a TV interview with CBS, and seeing C3PO and R2D2's "footprints" in front of Mann's Chinese Theater. This, I believe, has been the most amazing week of my life, and nothing can ever come close.

Thank you, George. •

Useful Links:
501st Legion: http://www.501st.com
501st Legion FAQ:
http://www.501st.com/faqs.php
Tournament of Roses Parade:
http://www.tournamentofroses.com/

Text and photographs by Ross Harper-Alonso

FROM 101 DALMATIANS TO 25,000 FILIPINO ANIMATORS

Animation Council president Grace Dimaranan intends to bring back the glory days of Filipino animators, when projects from Warner Bros. and the Cartoon Network have Pinoys doing 101 Dalmatians, Scooby Doo and Beauty & the Beast

THERE'S been dynamic growth in the Philippines' call center and medical transcription business in recent times, but Grace Dimaranan, new president of the Animation Council of the Philippines, a non-stock, non-profit organization that helps promote the local animation industry, believes these two sunrise ventures are bound to have company very soon. After slipping from the ranks in the past years, the local animation industry has regained its footing and getting ready to join the outsourcing giants, she predicts.

"Animation has been a big dollar earner since the early '80s," says Grace. "We were a leader in the industry 10, 15 years ago and Filipino animators were globally in demand until India and China slowly took over. It was not because we weren't skilled but because they were bidding half of what we were charging," she explains. "It was frustrating for a while but we managed to stay in the game because of our 20-year track record. We still have the same clients so we must be doing something right," she laughs.

Dimaranan: "We must be doing something right."

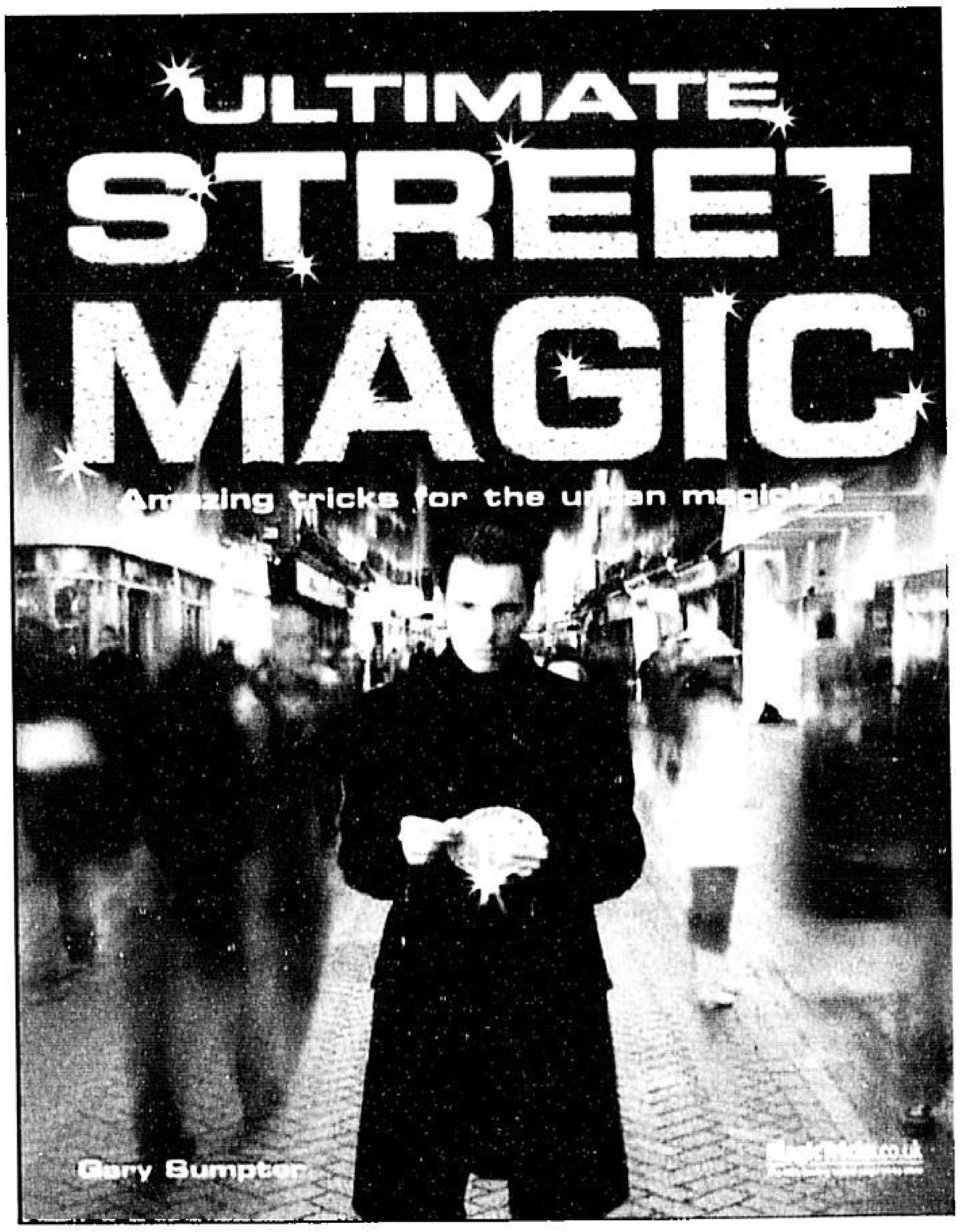
Grace, a master animator keeps an impressive portfolio tucked away. She's put the spots on Walt Disney's 101 Dalmatians, gave Belle of Beauty and the Beast her curls and tossed Scooby Doo his doggie snacks, just to name a few of her works. Her production studio, Top Peg has several big clients, including Warner and the Cartoon Network. "We've also done animation for the European and Canadian market but I'm prouder of the two all-Filipino animation series we've produced," she says. "So far no local studio has been able to do the same." In 2002, she co-produced "Tutubi Patrol," an award-winning value-oriented show for children ages 3 to 7. Recently, the group used highly creative 3D background effects, designs and style to bring the "Jobert" animation series to life. The story, created by Edward L. Tan for teens and young adults, revolves around a 24-year-old Pinoy car salesman turned adventure hero.

Animation follows a worldwide trend, notes Grace. While cartoons were made exclusively for children a while back, it now caters to a wider, more demanding audience. "Animation is used in almost everything these days, from webisodes and movie special effects to adult entertainment," she adds. "Unfortunately, the demand for sex and violence just makes it more feasible to use animation along the same theme and style," she laments. If she had her druthers, she'd choose projects that showcase wholesome traditions and values, says Grace, who has two children, Baron, 12, and Faith 8, with master animator and Tom and Jerry director Luis B. Dimaranan. Understandably, both are wary of shows and games that their children are exposed to. "This is a reality of the business we've had to accept, but it's only one of my concerns. The industry could really thrive if the most basic problems were addressed. Contrary to what some people might think, we're not short of projects, but rather, we lack qualified animators," she clarifies. "Currently we have 6,000 artists but I hope to increase this number to 25,000 by 2010."

The animation council has been working on a collaboration between

(continued on page 15)

MAGIC TO DO



ONE doesn't have to don a top hat and a voluminous cape to be a master of the magical arts. In fact, sleight-of-hand is most impressive when performed by ordinary people in ordinary clothes using ordinary items.

But "Ultimate Street Magic: Amazing Tricks for the Urban Magician" by Gary Sumpter (New Holland, P835 at National Bookstore) is anything but ordinary. Cards, coins, rubber bands, and such minutiae are the tools of Sumpter, a Brit urban wizard whose quick hands are his source of power. Like his American counterpart, the freaky David Blaine, Sumpter can also get scary, with tricks utilizing body parts (like seemingly breaking your own fingers or impaling your tongue with a fork). But hey, the tricks are completely harmless once you see how he does them.

Truth is, the tricks are surprisingly simple in theory, but require a lot of speed and even more practice. There's even a section dealing with hecklers, of all things (and no, it doesn't involve making them disappear). Not everyone is cut out to be a full-blown street wiz, but with "Ultimate Street Magic," you can surprise unsuspecting friends with a little knowledge that can make unbelievers vanish in a flash. **Ruel S. De Vera**

TRANSFORM YOUR SURFING HABITS

TRANSFORMERS
PHILIPPINES
http://transformersph.blogspot.com

Long before Michael Bay was prepping his DreamWorks big-robot movie, Transformers—in cartoon and toy form—have been fan favorites. And one group has been keeping the Spark aflame in the Philippines through the dark ages, so to speak.

Transformers Philippines is the Vector Sigma of Pinoy TF fandom, then as now, sending out units to man booths at conventions and face TV cameras, doing whatever it takes to get the word out: Transformers rock. Transform and roll out—all the way to the group's regularly updated blog (transformersph.blogspot.com) and give the Autobots and Decepticons their props.

Take the Space Bridge over to the message boards and debate to your processor's desire. This heavy metal brotherhood of all things Transformers is propelled purely by the Energon of their devotion. It's a funny and fierce formation of fans—not fanboys—that make Transformers Philippines a prime-time faction. **RSDV**

Figure It Out

2,623,014: Number of foreign tourists who visited the Philippines in 2005

US$1.026 billion: Revenue from foreign tourists from January to June 2005

511,277: Number of tourists from South Korea in 2006, the most number among foreign visitors

2.547 million: Estimated number of tourists who visited the country from January to November 2006

3 million tourists : The Department of Tourism's target for 2007

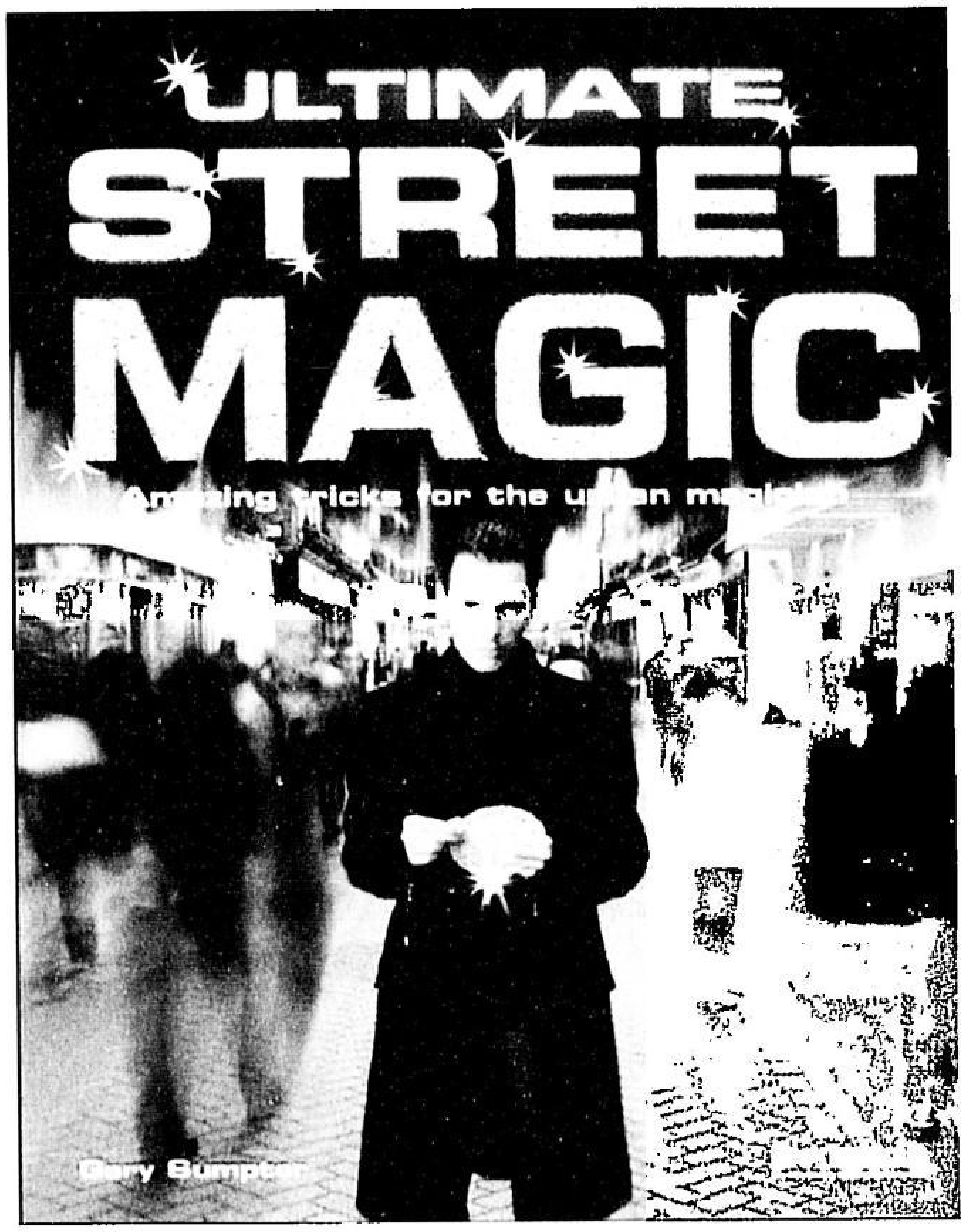
Compiled by Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research

MAGIC TO DO

ONE doesn't have to don a top hat and a voluminous cape to be a master of the magical arts. In fact, sleight-of-hand is most impressive when performed by ordinary people in ordinary clothes using ordinary items.

But "Ultimate Street Magic: Amazing Tricks for the Urban Magician" by Gary Sumpter (New Holland, P835 at National Bookstore) is anything but ordinary. Cards, coins, rubber bands, and such minutiae are the tools of Sumpter, a Brit urban wizard whose quick hands are his source of power. Like his American counterpart, the freaky David Blaine, Sumpter can also get scary, with tricks utilizing body parts (like seemingly breaking your own fingers or impaling your tongue with a fork). But hey, the tricks are completely harmless once you see how he does them.

Truth is, the tricks are surprisingly simple in theory, but require a lot of speed and even more practice. There's even a section dealing with hecklers, of all things (and no, it doesn't involve making them disappear). Not everyone is cut out to be a full-blown street wiz, but with "Ultimate Street Magic," you can surprise unsuspecting friends with a little knowledge that can make unbelievers vanish in a flash. **Ruel S. De Vera**



TRANSFORM YOUR SURFING HABITS

TRANSFORMERS
PHILIPPINES
http://transformersph.blogspot.com

Long before Michael Bay was prepping his DreamWorks big-robot movie, Transformers—in cartoon and toy form—have been fan favorites. And one group has been keeping the Spark aflame in the Philippines through the dark ages, so to speak.

Transformers Philippines is the Vector Sigma of Pinoy TF fandom, then as now, sending out units to man booths at conventions and face TV cameras, doing whatever it takes to get the word out: Transformers rock. Transform and roll out—all the way to the group's regularly updated blog (transformersph.blogspot.com) and give the Autobots and Decepticons their props.

Take the Space Bridge over to the message boards and debate to your processor's desire. This heavy metal brotherhood of all things Transformers is propelled purely by the Energon of their devotion. It's a funny and fierce formation of fans—not fanboys—that make Transformers Philippines a prime-time faction. **RSDV**

Figure It Out

2,623,014: Number of foreign tourists who visited the Philippines in 2005

US$1.026 billion: Revenue from foreign tourists from January to June 2005

511,277: Number of tourists from South Korea in 2006, the most number among foreign visitors

2.547 million: Estimated number of tourists who visited the country from January to November 2006

3 million tourists : The Department of Tourism's target for 2007

Compiled by Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research

Embracing Our Diversity (from page 4)

Amy Besa and Romy Dorotan
Memories of Philippine Kitchens
Photographs by Neal Oshima • Foreword by Peter Kaminsky • Introduction by Raymond Sokolov

Sold out: "The book is deserving of all the praises it receives."

in her search for a Filipino restaurant because she was desperately craving for *adobo*, which she grew up with because her nanny was Filipino. "She was craving for *adobo*," Besa observes, "because she was looking for what she associated it with, the love and care that came with memories of the food, the care from her nanny.... Now there is a whole new generation of foreigners who are being brought up by Filipino nannies and they will grow up with memories of Filipino food and the love that comes with it."

But the brilliance of Amy Besa is that she hits the nail on the head in presenting what is ours and in describing the heritage behind the cuisine. This is the result of years of research, going to the far ends of the country to experience the delicacies firsthand. "Every aspect of the book had an intellectual foundation," she explains. "Doreen Fernandez gave us a common language and a common way to look at food, so I based the book on the intellectual underpinnings of Doreen Fernandez and coupled it with readings of Raymond Sokolov, author of the book "Why We Eat What We Eat."

Besa describes food as a "reflection of culture, a document, an expression of where people are at that stage in their lives."

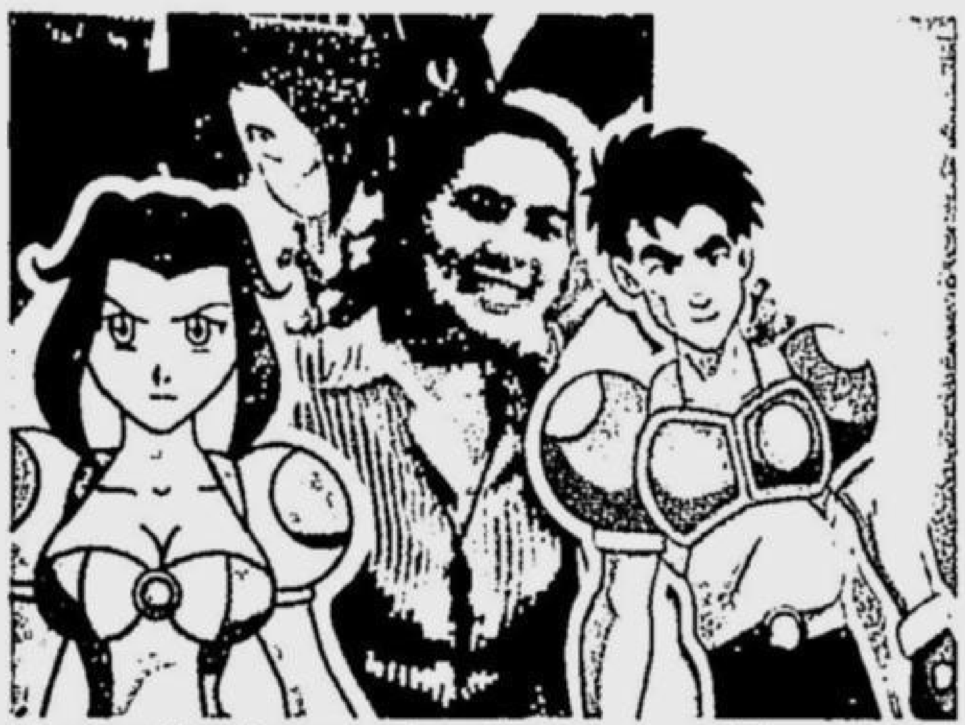
On the day of her launch, all copies of "Memories" were sold out. To some readers, it's a hot book because it has Romy Dorotan's recipes for Cendrillon and delicacies from established families in the country, as well as alternative ingredients for those living abroad. But I like it especially because it paints an accurate picture through food of who we are as a people. Plus, it has stories from home that you can connect to, of grandparents and parents and even *yayas* who complete our own memories of Philippine kitchens—kitchens where, as Amy Besa points out, a recipe will never be without the unwritten staple ingredients of hospitality, generosity and love.

* * *

ERRATA: Just to clarify some misspelled words for the connoisseurs: The editors, wholesome non-beer drinkers (?!), inadvertently misspelled Guinness (to have only one "n") a couple of issues back. Also, for the New Year's issue, an "s" was added to the Philippine Plaza's Spiral.

For my 2004 critique on Cendrillon for INQUIRER's Global Nation, search inq7.net or find the link in margauxlicious.blogspot.com. •

From 101 Dalmatians to 25,000 Filipino animators (from page 13)



"Animation is used in almost everything these days."

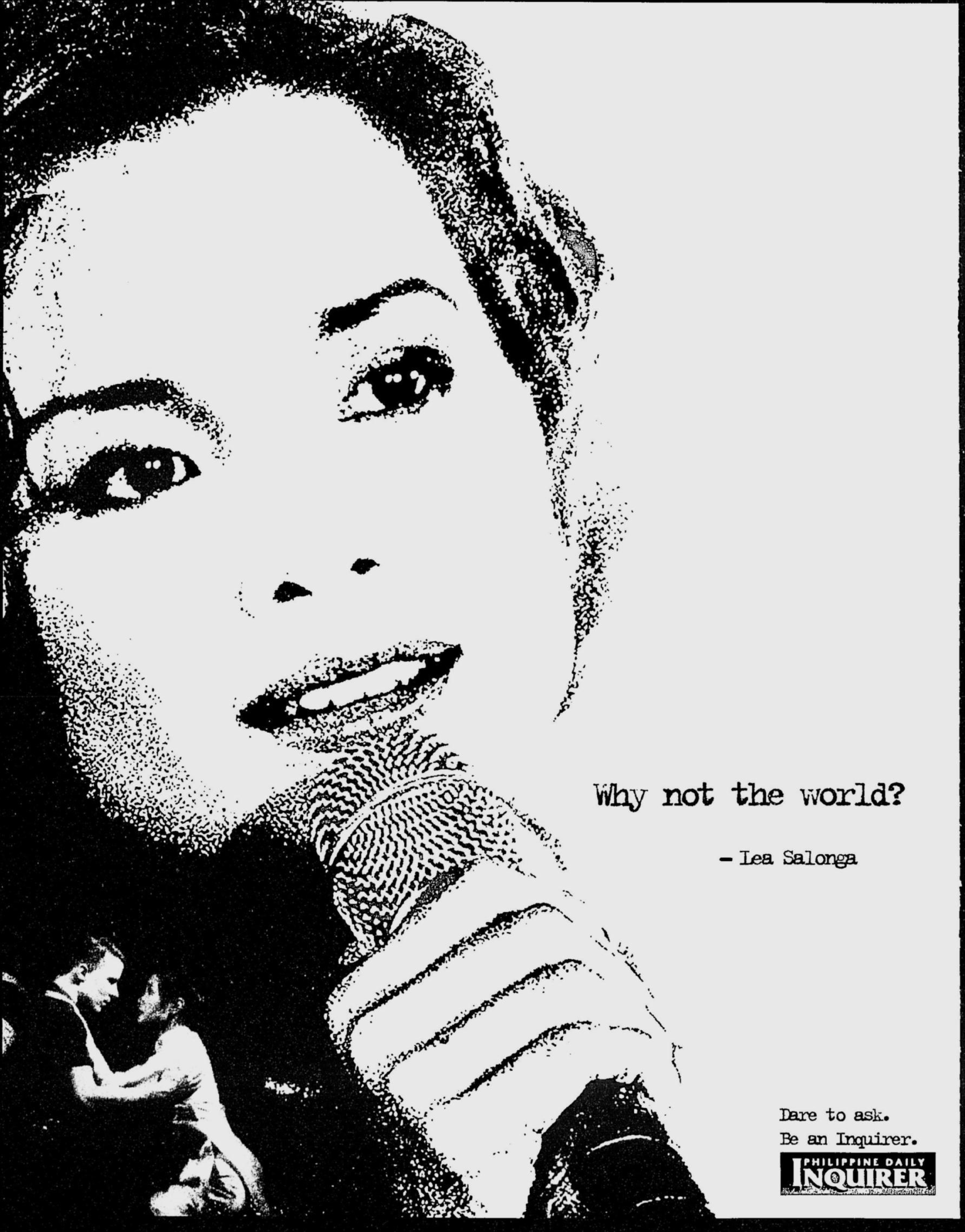
the Academe and the animation industry to access industry-based animation programs. "We've been working with quite a number of schools like the College of St. Benilde, Mapua IT Center, Ateneo de Naga and other schools that have started to offer basic and professional animation," says Grace. "We're on a roll but there's still so much untapped talent going to waste. It's important that we try to draw that out by increasing student awareness and by encouraging them to hone their skills. It isn't easy to convince parents that a career in animation might be better for a creative child, especially if the parents want that child to be a nurse," she adds, chuckling.

Quite a tall order, but Grace remains optimistic. After all, she's armed with an animator's patience and sense of humor—a must, she says, in this business "or you'll think everyone you're working with is a nut case."

Once, on a very hectic day, she recalls, "I walked into the room and someone was standing on top of the table jumping up and down and making sounds like a caffeine-loaded gorilla." She adds, "The workroom is filled with people looking at mirrors doing comical expressions and it's impossible not to crack up. I myself had to act out hundreds of characters like an old lady, a cooing baby, a cowboy and so many others for my staff to get the exact gestures and reactions needed on paper. It's all about using the imagination to exaggerate a pout, frown, a smile or a frightened look. It takes a lot of patience to study the smallest details."

In fact, the minutiae of the job have become a pastime for her and her husband, confides Grace. "One evening, it was raining hard and we were stuck in traffic for more than an hour. But we didn't complain; we were too busy observing the windshield wipers, watching the splish splash of the rain drops as they landed on the glass, something we can use in our work," she laughs.

Now that's reality prefiguring art. •


Why not the world?
– Lea Salonga
Dare to ask.
Be an Inquirer.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER